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145 SSLC students score full marks

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The highest recorded pass percentage in 10 years in a full-fledged SSLC examination was recorded for the 2021-22 academic year.

The pass percentage for the SSLC results, announced on Thursday, stood at 85.63. In addition, for the first time in the history of the State, as many as 145 students scored 625 out of 625 marks.

During the previous academic year, due to COVID-19, the Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board had conducted Multiple Choice Question model examination for 40 marks and passed all the students except one who did not appear for the examination, due to which the pass percentage was 99.99.

In the academic year 2019-20, it was 72.42 %.

As is the usual trend, this year too, the pass percentage of girls was higher. Of the total 8,73,859 students who registered for the examination, 8,53,436 appeared. Of these, 3,52,752 boys (86.34%) and 3,68,579 girls (92.44%) passed, taking the total to 7,30,881 (85.63%). As for the school-wise results, government schools clocked 88%, while aided schools recorded 87.84%, and unaided 92.29%.

Minister for Primary and Secondary Education B.C. Nagesh announced the results at a press conference.

MORE REPORTS, PHOTOS ON ▸ PAGE 2

SC says Centre, States have equal powers to make GST-related laws

It confirms Gujarat HC ruling that govt. can't levy IGST on ocean freight imports

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday, in a judgment championing the importance of "cooperative federalism" for the well-being of democracy, held that Union and State legislatures have "equal, simultaneous and unique powers" to make laws on Goods and Services Tax (GST) and the recommendations of the GST Council are not binding on them.

The apex court's decision came while confirming a Gujarat High Court ruling that the Centre cannot levy Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) on ocean freight from Indian importers.

"The recommendations of the GST Council are the product of a collaborative dialogue involving the Union and the States. They are recommendatory in nature... The recommendations only have a persuasive value. To regard them as binding would disrupt fiscal federalism when both the Union and the States are conferred equal power to legislate on GST," a Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud held.

The court emphasised that Article 246A (which gives the States power to make laws with respect to GST) of the Constitution treat the Union and the States as "equal units". "It confers a simultaneous power (on Union and States) for enacting laws on GST... Article 279A, in constituting the GST Council, envisions that neither the Centre nor the States are actually dependent on the other," Justice Chandrachud interpreted.

He said the Centre and States were "autonomous, independent and even competing units" while making GST laws. "The federal system is a means to accommodate the needs of a pluralistic society in a democratic manner... Democracy and federalism are inter-dependent. Federalism would only be stable in a well functioning democracy. The constituent units of a federal polity checks the exercise of powers of one another to prevent one group from exercising dominant power," it noted.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

What next?

FOR BUSINESSES
- Goods importers get some relief as they are no longer liable to pay GST on ocean freight charges; could seek refunds for past payments

FOR THE CENTRE AND STATES
- Finance Ministry believes SC order only reiterates the spirit in which the GST Council is functioning
- "All but one decision of the Council has been reached by consensus so far"
- The Council may be summoned soon to discuss SC verdict's implications

> An administrative body created by the Constitution cannot have an overriding right on the legislature
> TARUN BAJAJ, Revenue Secretary

> The Centre had been arbitrarily imposing its decisions on States... We hope the verdict would pave the way for States to protect their rights
> K.N. BALAGOPAL, Kerala Finance Minister

'Won't impact GST regime'

The Supreme Court verdict does not entail any changes 'in any way' to the functioning of the GST regime, the Finance Ministry said on Thursday, as some States welcomed the ruling. While Kerala Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal hailed it for upholding cooperative federalism, his Tamil Nadu counterpart Palanivel Thiaga Rajan said the ruling safeguarded States' rights. ▸ PAGE 14

Sidhu gets one-year RI in road rage case

Apex court reviews its 2018 judgment

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday awarded one-year rigorous imprisonment (RI) to Punjab Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu in a 34-year-old fatal road rage case.

A Special Bench of Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and Sanjay Kishan Kaul reviewed the apex court's May 2018 judgment which had let off Mr. Sidhu with a fine of ₹1,000, saying such road side brawls were a "very common sight in this country".

"Punishment to be awarded for a crime must not be irrelevant but it should conform to and be consistent with the atrocity and brutality with which the crime has been perpetrated," the court noted.

"A manifestly inadequate sentence would fail to produce a deterrent effect on the society at large. Punishments are awarded not because of the fact that it has to be an eye for an eye or a tooth for a tooth. They are awarded for the due impact on the society. While undue harshness is not required but inadequate punishment may lead to sufferance of the community at large."

Navjot Singh Sidhu

The courts should not show undue sympathy and impose inadequate sentence. This would do more harm to the justice system and undermine the public confidence in the efficacy of law, the Bench said.

The decision came on a review petition filed by the family of the victim, Gurnam Singh, who died in the road rage incident in 1988. The Punjab and Haryana High Court had found Mr. Sidhu guilty of committing culpable homicide, not amounting to murder.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Yasin Malik convicted for terror funding

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Days after Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) pleaded guilty to the charges framed against him, a Special NIA (National Investigation Agency) court in Delhi convicted him in a terror-funding case on Thursday.

Special NIA judge Praveen Singh of the Patiala House Court complex posted for May 25 arguments on the quantum of sentencing. "I find that accused Yasin Malik has voluntarily and after due legal consultation, meaning thereby, after fully knowing the consequences of his plea, has pleaded guilty to the charges framed against him. His plea is accordingly accepted," he said.

After the framing of charges in March, he refused legal aid and did not contest the charges.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

SC to hear Gyanvapi case today

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday ordered the Varanasi court to halt its proceedings in the Gyanvapi mosque suit until the apex court took up the case on Friday.

A Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud agreed to adjourn the case till 3 p.m. on Friday as the senior lawyer briefed by one of the parties, the five Hindu women who are plaintiffs in the suit filed before the trial court in Varanasi and are respondents before the Supreme Court in the petition filed by the mosque's caretakers against the survey of the mosque premises, was personally indisposed due to an illness.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

NEARBY

Chief Minister tells BDA to cancel notification

BENGALURU
Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has directed the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) to cancel a public notification calling for objections for change of land use from "tank" to "residential".

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 3

Test all primary contacts of positive cases: TAC

BENGALURU
Reviewing the current scenario of COVID-19 in the country, the State's COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) in its recent meeting recommended testing of all household and primary contacts of positive cases at work places. Since January, the State has been following ICMR's purposive testing strategy that said contacts of infected patients do not need to be tested unless identified as high-risk based on age.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 3

Two days on, water yet to recede in Sai Layout

BENGALURU
Residents of low-lying area Sai Layout in Horamavu are still reeling under the effect of Tuesday night's rain havoc as the area is still under water after two days. Despite multiple fire engines being deployed to pump out water, it has been ineffective.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 4

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Text & Context

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Rise in sugar exports

64 In percentage, the rise in sugar exports to 71 lakh tonnes during the October 2021-April 2022 period due to better demand for the Indian sweetener in global markets, according to a statement by the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA). The industry body said that 43.19 lakh tonnes of sugar were exported during the corresponding period last year. ISMA added that it expects over 90 lakh tonnes of export in the current 2021-22 marketing year, as against 71.91 lakh tonnes exported in the previous year. PTI

Displaced from within

59.1 In million, the number of people registered as internally displaced worldwide in 2021, according to a joint report by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre and the Norwegian Refugee Council. The all-time record for internally displaced people is expected to be broken again this year amid mass displacement inside war-torn Ukraine. Around 38 million new internal displacements were reported in 2021, with some people forced to flee multiple times during the year. AFP

Soldiers surrender

1,730 The number of Ukrainian soldiers to have surrendered since May 16, at the besieged Azovstal steel plant in Ukraine's port city of Mariupol, according to the Russian Defence Ministry. "Over the past 24 hours, 771 militants of the Azov nationalist regiment surrendered," the Ministry said in its daily briefing on the conflict. The Ministry said that the injured soldiers were taken to a hospital in Russia-controlled territory in eastern Ukraine. AFP

Japan aids Ukraine

600 In $ million, the financial aid to be provided by Japan to Ukraine, according to Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. The aid has doubled from the initial amount of $300 million pledged by Japan. The additional $300 million will be provided through the World Bank to help Ukraine's financial difficulties because of the Russian invasion. The announcement comes just before Japan hosts U.S. President Joe Biden and two other leaders for the Quad summit, a regional strategic framework. AP

Salmonella infections

266 The number of confirmed cases of Salmonella infection reported by European health officials. The officials said that with 58 more suspected cases, the outbreak was linked to Easter eggs and has now been reported throughout Europe and North America. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control said that 86.3% of the cases were among children aged 10 or younger. No deaths have been reported. Cases have been reported in 14 European countries, Canada and the U.S. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

Understanding India's ethanol blending policy

Why does the government want to increase the percentage of ethyl alcohol in petrol? From where does India source its ethanol?

THE GIST

- The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved amendments to the National Policy on Biofuels, 2018, to advance the date by which fuel companies have to increase the percentage of ethanol in petrol to 20%, from 2030 to 2025.
- A NITI Ayog Committee report of June 2021 lays out a comprehensive picture of ethanol blending, the challenges and a roadmap.
- Car makers have said that with modifications in engines (hardware and tuning), the loss in efficiency due to blended fuel can be reduced. To compensate the consumers for a drop in efficiency from ethanol blended fuels, tax incentives on E20 fuel may be considered.

JACOB P KOSHY

The story so far: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved amendments to the National Policy on Biofuels, 2018, to advance the date by which fuel companies have to increase the percentage of ethanol in petrol to 20%, from 2030 to 2025. The policy of introducing 20% ethanol is expected to take effect from April 1, 2023.

What is the history of ethanol-blending in India?
Since two decades, India has been moving towards putting in place an ecosystem to have more ethanol blended into petrol for use vehicles, particularly two and four wheelers. Government records suggest about 75% of India's 220 million vehicles are two wheelers and 12% four wheelers. Ethanol, or ethyl alcohol, is a hydrocarbon that when burnt can generate heat and power engines.

A report by the IEEFA says that for India to meet its target of 20% ethanol blended in petrol by 2025, it will need to bring in 30,000 additional sq km of land to come under maize cultivation.

However, it takes much more ethanol to power a vehicle's engine than petrol. It also leaves residual by-products that can corrode and damage the vehicle which is why, while vehicles can be run on ethanol, they need to be tuned accordingly so that they don't compromise on efficiency and usability. On the other hand, the gains are potentially significant as ethanol can be sourced from sugarcane, molasses, maize, which given India's agricultural base, can substantially reduce India's dependence on petroleum.

Since 2001, India has tested the feasibility of ethanol-blended petrol whereby 5% ethanol blended petrol (95% petrol-5% ethanol) was supplied to retail outlets. In 2002, India launched the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme and began selling 5% ethanol blended petrol in nine States and four Union Territories that was extended to twenty States and four UTs in 2006. Until 2013-14, however, the percentage of blending never crossed 1.5%.

In 2015, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways notified that E5 [blending 5% ethanol with 95% gasoline] petrol and the rubber and plastic components used in gasoline vehicles produced since 2008 be compatible with the E10 fuel. In 2019, the Ministry notified the E10 fuel [blending 10% ethanol with 90% gasoline]. The rubber and plastic components used in petrol vehicles are currently compatible with E10 fuel. Financial incentives for distilleries coupled with policy support has seen average blending touch 5%. Standards for E20, E85 and even E100 fuel have already been laid. This includes standards for ethanol blended diesel. Since 2020, India has been announcing its intent to achieve 10% blending by the end of 2022 and 20% blending by 2030. The Centre has also targeted 5% blending of biodiesel with diesel by 2030.

What does switching to E20 entail?
A NITI Ayog Committee report of June 2021 lays out a comprehensive picture of ethanol blending, the challenges and a roadmap. India's net import of petroleum was 185 million tons at a cost of $55 billion in 2020-21. Most of the petroleum is used by vehicles and therefore a successful 20% ethanol blending programme could save the country $4 billion per annum, or about ₹30,000 crore. To achieve such savings, the committee estimates an ethanol demand of 1,016 crore litres based on expected growth in vehicle population. Because electric vehicles are also likely to increase, this should partially offset demand for ethanol leading to a requirement of 722-921 crore litres in 2025.

This however is an "optimistic" projection as the NITI report itself notes. India's current ethanol production capacity consists of 426 crore litres from molasses-based distilleries, and 258 crore litres from grain-based distilleries. This is expected to increase to 760 crore litres and 740 crore litres respectively and would suffice to produce 1016 crore litres of ethanol required for EBP and 334 crore litres for other uses. This will require six million tonnes of sugar and 16.5 million tonnes of grains per annum in ESY 2025.

How does this affect engines?
When using E20, there is an estimated loss of 6-7% fuel efficiency for four wheelers which are originally designed for E0 and calibrated for E10, 3-4% for two wheelers designed for E0 and calibrated for E10 and 1-2% for four wheelers designed for E10 and calibrated for E20. Car makers have said that with modifications in engines (hardware and tuning), the loss in efficiency due to blended fuel can be reduced. To compensate the consumers for a drop in efficiency from ethanol blended fuels, tax incentives on E10 and E20 fuel may be considered. The test vehicles worked well in several test-situations, the report noted.

What is the international experience?
Flex Fuel Engine technology (FFE), or vehicles that run entirely on ethanol, are popular in Brazil and comprise nearly 80% of the total number of new vehicles sold in 2019. The cost of flex fuel vehicles (four-wheelers) could cost about ₹17,000 to ₹25,000 more than the current generation of vehicles.

The two-wheeled flex fuel vehicles would be costlier by ₹5,000 to ₹12,000 compared to regular petrol vehicles. The global production of fuel ethanol touched 110 billion litres in 2019, or about an average growth of 4% year per year during the last decade. The U.S. and Brazil make up 92 billion litres, or 84% of the global share, followed by European Union (EU), China, India, Canada and Thailand.

The prices of ethanol produced in India are higher compared to U.S. and Brazil, because of the minimum support prices that the government provides.

What are the environmental costs of ethanol blending?
Because ethanol burns more completely than petrol, it avoids emissions such as carbon monoxide. However, tests conducted in India have shown that there is no

reduction in nitrous oxides, one of the major environmental pollutants. A report by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) says that for India to meet its target of 20% ethanol blended in petrol by the year 2025, it will need to bring in 30,000 additional sq km of land to come under maize cultivation. Half that land can be used more efficiently to produce clean electricity from solar energy, they contend.

For India, sugarcane is the cheapest source of ethanol. On average, a ton of sugarcane can produce 100 kg of sugar and 70 litres of ethanol but that would mean 1,600 to 2,000 litres of water to produce 1 kg of sugar, implying that a litre of ethanol from sugar requires about 2,860 litres of water.

EXPLAINER

The child online safety toolkit

Can the toolkit be accessed by different countries and organisations? How does it aim to achieve a "safe and fulfilled" environment for children online?

RAMYA KANNAN

The story so far: The child online safety toolkit was launched earlier this week in an attempt to make the online experience safe for children. Scripted and put together by the Britain-based NGO 5Rights that works to ensure that children's rights and needs are prioritised in the digital world, the toolkit provides a practical and accessible roadmap to create a digital world where children and young people "are safe and fulfilled". This includes step by step instructions to help assess and inform policy development at all stages of the process. As such, any government can use the toolkit as a building block to work out its own culturally specific set of guidelines for online safety.

The toolkit can be downloaded for free from childonlinesafetytoolkit.org and by contacting info@5rightsfoundation.com.

Why an online safety tool kit?
Children want to be online and they need to be online. If two years of the pandemic have taught us anything, it is that a good portion of the future is going to be online. Education migrated almost entirely online for a significant period during the pandemic and children were linked to schools through their devices. While the merits or otherwise of such an

arrangement has been discussed at length, it is undeniable that moving forward would entail significant involvement with technology, particularly going online.

However, the two years we spent at home have also shown us how the world can come indoors online, in more ways than one, dragging along its predators and its risks as well. Earlier research conducted by 5Rights and its partner Revealing Reality indicated that "within 24 hours of a social media profile being created, children were being targeted with graphic content." They went on to state that internet majors such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok were enabling unsolicited contact from adult strangers who sometimes recommend unsavoury content – from "material related to eating disorders, extreme diets, self-harm and suicide as well as sexualised imagery and distorted body images."

As Baroness Beeban Kidron, founder and chair, 5Rights Foundation, says in the introduction to the toolkit: "In an increasingly connected world, the need for a safe and enabling digital environment for children has never been greater. Policy makers across the globe are working to define the rules of engagement between children and the digital world."

The prevalence of child sexual exploitation and abuse is also a major concern, offline, but certainly online too. In 2020, 65 million pieces of child sexual abuse material were reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children of the United States, while many more went undetected.

The toolkit argues that guaranteeing online safety is not just about responding to risks and harms: it means actively designing a digital environment that is safe for every child. "With one in three people online under the age of 18, the centrality of digital technology in children's lives means that it must be formed with their privacy, safety and rights by design and by default." Safety online allows young people to thrive, and the toolkit will help build a digital world that young people need.

What does the toolkit provide?
The child online safety toolkit claims that it is a hands-on, comprehensive guide to making the online world free from harm for children. It builds on existing international agreements and best practices, developed in consultation with international experts from a range of backgrounds. It has accessible worksheets and resources both online and in print to help make child online safety a reality

Among other things, it contains – five things every policymaker needs to know to enshrine child online safety into law and practice, 10 policy action areas with detailed roadmaps and key practical steps needed to make child online safety a reality, a model policy that policymakers can adopt and adapt for their requirements, and downloadable worksheets to create a policy fit for practice. It also holds a glossary of key terms used in online safety and child online safety policy to best practice examples from various countries.

The toolkit separates its obligations into ten subject areas to support the implementation of the following key international agreements and frameworks: the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) General comment No. 25 (2021) on children's rights in the digital environment; the WeProtect Global Alliance Model National Response; and the International Telecommunication Union's Guidelines on Child Online Protection. It also tapped into UNICEF's Draft Policy Guidance on AI for Children, designed to promote children's rights in government and private sector AI (artificial intelligence) policies and practices, and to raise awareness of how AI systems can uphold or undermine these rights.

What next?
The authors say the toolkit is designed to be adaptable to any context. While national contexts may necessarily be different, it is essential that laws and regulations, to the greatest extent possible, use concepts, language and definitions that are aligned and allow for cooperation between law enforcement agencies, as well as cross-border cooperation and understanding.

Ultimately, it depends on nations or organisations within nations entirely – if they want to pick up the toolkit to ensure a safe environment online for children, as well as deliver their commitments to various international conventions that they have signed.

THE GIST

- The child online safety toolkit, scripted and put together by the Britain-based NGO 5Rights, works to ensure that children's rights and needs are prioritised in the digital world.
- Research conducted by 5Rights and its partner Revealing Reality indicated that "within 24 hours of a social media profile being created, children were being targeted with graphic content."
- The toolkit contains – five things every policymaker needs to know to enshrine child online safety into law and practice, 10 Policy Action Areas with detailed roadmaps and key practical steps needed to make child online safety a reality.

Winners all: Conquering adversities, they ace SSLC exam

Amit Madar, a Dalit student from Government High School in Vijayapura district, is among the 145 candidates from different parts of State who scored 625 out of 625

STAFF REPORTER
BELAGAVI/KALABURAGI

Amit Madar

Amit Madar, a Dalit student from Government High School at Jumanal in Vijayapura district, scored full marks in SSLC making his village proud.

"It is an unforgettable day for not just me but all our people in the village," he said. Hailing from a poor agricultural family, Amit lost his father when he was just a year old. His mother, agricultural labour who toiled on the farmlands of others for wages, ensured education to all three. Amit is the youngest of the three siblings. His sister, the eldest one, is in her final year of degree. His brother works at a book shop while studying the second year degree.

When the Jumanal Government High School teachers conducted online classes during COVID, Amit did not have a smartphone to attend them. He requested his friends and relatives and managed to attend classes. He says he studied six to eight hours a day.

While Amit wants to become a doctor, many have advised him to do IAS. He says studying in a government school was never a disadvantage. "Some people say that quality of teaching in government schools is low. But it is not true," he told *The Hindu*.

Chasing big dreams

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HASSAN

Yashwitha T.S.

Yashwitha T.S., one of the State toppers in SSLC, wants to become a doctor, but her poor parents are worried if they can support their daughter financially. "We are farmers with only 20 guntas of land. We cannot dream big," said Yashwika's father Suresh.

Yashwika, who was away at her relative's place with no phone connectivity, was unreachable on Thursday, when SSLC results were announced. Her father responded to the calls on his daughter's behalf.

Mr. Suresh is an arts graduate and his wife Gayathri has studied up to SSLC. The family spent some years in Bengaluru. Later they moved to their native place Tandiganahalli near Banavara, where the couple is pursuing agriculture.

"My daughter got a chance to study in Morarji Desai School at Kundur Mutt in Channarayapatna taluk in Hassan district from Class VI. We sent her there as we were sure of her getting quality education without any financial burden," said Mr. Suresh.

Working at the crack of dawn

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANGALURU

Puneeth Naika

Puneeth Naika worked as a labourer at the Malpe Fishing Harbour early in the morning on days his mother was unwell. However, this student from Government PU College, Malpe in Udupi district, did not lose focus on studies and scored 625 in the SSLC results declared on Thursday.

Mr. Naika, whose family hails from Koppal district, said that because of financial condition in the family he was forced to work between 4 a.m. and 9 a.m. in the harbour to unload fish from boats.

After the work, he went to school and continued his preparation, Mr. Naika said. Sandhya, the in-charge headmistress, said he has been studious all along.

Her success formula

B.R. Bhumika with her family.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

B.R. Bhumika from Government High School, Yelanadu, Chikkanayakanahalli, Tumakuru district, is the daughter of a Kannada teacher in the same school. She has studied in government schools and in Kannada medium all through.

She travelled in public transport from Bannikere village to her school every day. "I never went for tuitions and only tried to follow one formula, trying to understand concepts rather than learn anything by rote," said the girl who is very keen on pursuing Mathematics.

Bhumika's father and teacher Ravindranath is a proud man.

"She is the perfect example of how one achieve heights in one's mother tongue," he said.

School was often his home

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HUBBALLI

Praveen Neeralagi

Being the topper is not a mean achievement for Praveen Neeralagi, son of a marginal farmer from Halemannagi village in Savanur taluk of Haveri district, who often stayed back and slept in the school to study. Given the space constraints at home, it was not easy for him to concentrate there.

Praveen's parents Basangaouda and Chitra have one acre of land and often work as farm labourers to augment the meagre income.

Praveen studied at Government High School in his village. He aspires to become a doctor, but is not sure whether his financial position will help enable it. "I want to become a doctor. If Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai extends help, I am sure I can achieve my dream," he told press persons.

Only Bengaluru South and Yadgir in 'B' grade this year

No district figures in 'C' grade

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Bengaluru South, which has a high number of elite private schools and has been placed in the 'A' grade every year, has fallen to the 'B' grade in this year's SSLC results.

Among the 34 educational districts, only two districts – Bengaluru South and Yadgir – are in the 'B' grade. There is no district in the 'C' grade this year.

The Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board (KSEEB) has analysed and categorised educational district grades on the basis of the pass percentage of fresh students. The qualitative weightage percentage is a result of 40% of pass percentage added to 20% of the percentage of students who secured 60% and above along with 40% of the total average marks secured.

According to this, schools which secure a pass percentage from 75% to 100% is 'A' grade, more than 60% to 75% is "B' and less than 60% is considered as 'C' grade.

Bengaluru South educational district has the highest number of government, BBMP, aided and unaided schools in the State. This district also has the highest number of students compared to all other districts. Every year, it achieved minimum of fourth or fifth place in the SSLC results. This year has been different.

Bengaluru South District DDPI Bylanjanappa, told to *The Hindu*, "In our educational district, a majority of the schools belong to the central board syllabus. In the academic year of 2019-20, we achieved 71% in the SSLC exams. This year, it has improved to 79.44%, but we fallen in qualitative results."

"We will take this as a challenge and have decided to improve the qualitative result and work on a war-footing for the 2022-23 academic year. An academic plan and proper action plan to improve the results is already being planned and we will execute it. We will form a team of officers and regularly visit all the schools and observe and analyse the educational activities," he said.

Happy faces: Students celebrating their SSLC result in Bengaluru on Thursday. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

II PU results in June 3rd week

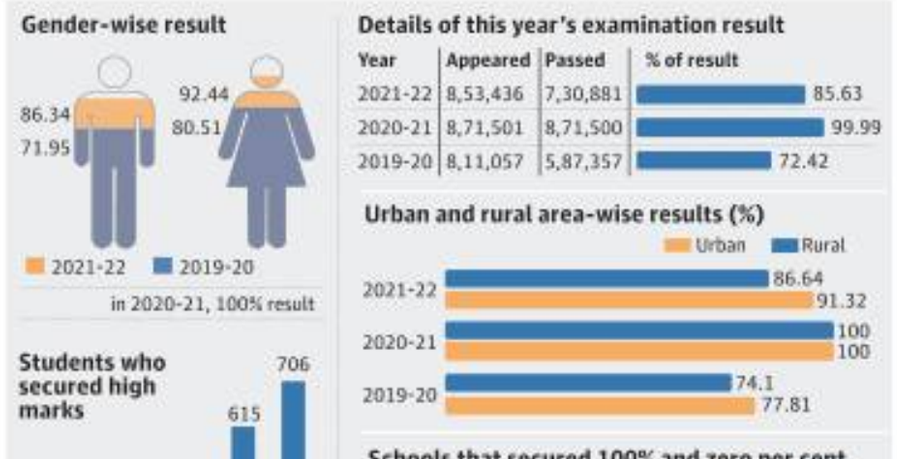
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Primary and Secondary Education Minister B.C. Nagesh has said that the II pre-university examination results will be announced in the third week of June. "Evaluation of II PU answer scripts will start on May 25 and we are planning to complete it [evaluation] before June 15," he said.

Over 40,000 passed with grace marks

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

This year a total 40,061 student passed SSLC exams with grace marks of up to 10. The Board decided to give grace marks to students who got marks very close to the pass mark. They gave 8 grace marks for core subjects and up to 10 for languages. 35,931 students got grace marks for only one subject and 3,940 got for two subjects.



19 toppers in Hassan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HASSAN

Seven students of Vijaya School in Hassan secured 625/625 in the SSLC examination. • PRAKASH HASSAN

As many as 19 students of Hassan district, including seven from one private high school in the city, have secured first rank in the SSLC examination. Abhishek Gowda K., Inchara L., Harshitha H.C., Kalyan M.M., Samskruthi P.Kumar, Madhura A. and Spoorthi J.C. of Vijaya School have secured 625 marks.

Others who secured the highest score are Arjun E.Naik, a student a Morarji School at Rangapura in Arsikere taluk; Pragathi H.N. of Government High School at Channarayapatna; Yashwitha T.S., student of Morarji School at Kundur Matha in Channarayapatna taluk; Mahalakshmi C., of St. Philomena's Girls High School in Hassan; Boomika B.K., of Shalini English School, Channarayapatna; Likitha H.D., SRS Prajna Vidyashala, Hassan; Mohith H. and Tasneem Firdose Hunshal of Royal Apollo, Hassan; Niveditha H.Y., Sagacious Academy High School, Hassan; and Puneetha B.B., Purvika S., and Shreya C.J. of United High School. K.S.Prakash, Deputy Director of Public Instructions, said the pass percentage was 95.6%.

May 30 is last date to apply for scanned copies

Supplementary exam from June 27

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Students can apply for scanned copy of the SSLC answer sheets by May 30 through online mode. Also, for recounting of marks and revaluation, students can apply online between May 24 and June 6.

To help students, parents and head masters to get information about scanned copies, recounting, revaluation and other things KSEEB has launched helpline. The helpline number are: 080-23310075/76, 23562267 and 23561271.

Meanwhile, dates of SSLC supplementary exams have also been announced. They will be conducted for all the failed students by Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board (KSEEB) in June.

The exams will start with Science on June 27 from 10.30 a.m. till 1.45 p.m. June 28 is First Language paper, June 29 Second Language, and June 30 IS Social Science. July 1 will be Third Language, and July 4 Mathematics.

Last date to apply and upload details through the http://www.sslc.karnataka.gov.in online is May 30.

17 students share first four places in SSLC toppers' list

STAFF REPORTER
YADGIR

Manya Chitapur, a student of Don Bosco High School, has become the topper in the district by securing 624 marks (with 99.84%) out of 625 in the SSLC examination as the results were announced on Thursday.

Five students shared the second place by securing 623 marks and those are Soujanya, who is studying in Basanagowda Nandanagowda Patil Memorial school in Shorapur, Venkatesh, who is studying in Dr. Ambedkar Residential school in Shorapur, Rakshita, from Don Basco High school in Yadgir, Saniya, from Pragathi High school in Yadgir and Vimarsha, who is studying in Bhagawan Mahaveer High school in Yadgir.

Five students shared third place in the toppers list by securing 622 marks and those are Mallinath, who is studying in Vidhyaranya Swami English medium school in Shahapur, Sanmathi, in Prerana High school in Shorapur, Sanjana Desai, in Sri Kashgateshwar English Medium school in Shorapur, Ankita Patil and Suma, who are studying in RV Vidya Samsthe in Yadgir.

Two students shared the third place in the list by securing 621 marks and those are: Priyanka Hiremath and Varshita.

Four students shared the fourth place in the list by securing 620 marks.

As many as 17 students shared first four places in the toppers list. Among them, 14 were girls and three were boys.

Differently-abled children post a success story

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Differently-abled children posted a success story in the SSLC exams as they registered 80.61 pass percentage. A total 3,762 students of the 4,667 students who wrote the exam passed. This included 486 children who are mentally challenged, 577 who have visual impairments, 799 who are hearing impaired, nine with dyslexia, 55 with muscular dystrophy, 27 with spastic/cerebral palsy, 32 with multiple disorders, 81 with other ailments, 955 physically challenged, 241 with multiple disability and 500 with specific learning disability.

Students of the Government School for Special Children who cleared the exam in Belagavi on Thursday. • BADIGER P.K.

Still from *Reply 1988*

IN THE LIMELIGHT

When comfort is a K-drama

How shows like *'Hometown Cha-Cha-Cha,' 'Reply 1988'* and others have perfected the 'comfort' genre and changed the landscape of Korean entertainment

- Five comfort K-Dramas to check out:
- *Hospital Playlist*: Five doctors in their forties who have been friends since medical school, reunite at Yulje hospital where they navigate life, work, and relationships, all while indulging in their love for music on the side
- *Be Melodramatic*: The lives of three best friends in their thirties — a documentary filmmaker, a TV show writer, and a marketing professional — who have each other's backs as they try to figure out their lives, careers and relationships
- *Reply 1988*: Wholesome comfort with loads of nostalgia, as we follow five friends and their families in the same neighbourhood
- *Run On*: A slow-burn drama where a former track star whose life has been thrown out of gear finds an unlikely source of support in a film subtitler
- *Navillera*: A septuagenarian decides to pursue his lifelong dream of learning ballet and strikes up a friendship with a young dancer as they encourage each other

S. POORVAJA

The 2015 Korean drama series *Reply 1988* opens with five teenage friends sitting in front of a TV, stuffing their faces with snacks. As they proceed to bicker and banter, the resounding sound of their mothers' yells echo through the street calling them back home for dinner. The neighbours all part ways, and are shown entering into houses all on the same street. It is evident that this is an everyday routine; the loving familiarity, and almost a clockwork precision about how it all unfolds.

There's something about an opening sequence like this that hits a viewer like a ton of bricks; the heady mix of nostalgia, warmth, and familiarity that envelopes you from the get-go.

Comfort of community

Hollywood rom-coms have for long, taken precedence when it comes to 'comfort' watching. For years, we've all turned to Nora Ephron and Nancy Meyers' extensive filmography for an array of options. Over the last three years, we've probably ignored a lot of the new content available, and picked watching *You've Got Mail* or *10 Things I Hate About You* for the tenth time.

This is a genre K-dramas have also excelled at, and these swoon-worthy, frothy romances were in the forefront when they had a massive breakthrough a couple of years ago globally. At present too, *Business Proposal*, starring the terrific Kim Se-Jeong and Ahn Hyo-Seop remains on Netflix India's top shows list even a month after its release.

There's a whole other genre though, that K-dramas have made their own and excelled at: relatable comfort that goes beyond romance. This comfort revels in the everyday realness of its characters, is unhurried in pace, while exploring friendships, sisterhood, dreams, ambition and so much more.

There are parental relationships, friendships, sporting ambitions and the very relatable teenage indecision about the future that *Reply 1988* follows through five friends and their families who reside in the neighbourhood of Ssangmun-Dong. While there is romance, what makes it truly wholesome is how it celebrates community bonding, support, and kindness, harkening back to an era where neighbours felt like a part of the family. "A time when we didn't have much, but people's hearts were warm," muses Lee Hye-Ri, who played the immensely likable Deok-Sun.

The sense of community here is also brought alive by the women; the mothers and homemakers who sit together outside the colony as they gossip and prep for dinner, constantly sending food to each other's homes, quietly helping out a friend in need financially, and even signing up to compete in a national singing competition.

Comfort of friendships

We seldom see such stories on-screen, that go beyond milking the nostalgia factor and give so much weight to the humans who drive the show forward. It is this slice-of-life perfection that writer director duo Lee Woo-Jung and Shin Won-Ho also drive home in the *Hospital Playlist* series.

The protagonists here are five doctors in their 40s and much like the Ahjummas or older women in *Reply 1988*, there's genuine warmth, camaraderie, and bonding here as they navigate their everyday routine at the hospital, all while bickering over food and coming together to form a garage band. Jung Kyung-Ho in particular, who plays cardiologist Jun Wan, has you 'relating hard' as all those memes on adulthood put it especially when he tiredly tells his colleague, "I'm old. I can't do two different things on the same day."

There's comfort in the authenticity of the friendships in both these shows, and the fact that you don't need to be road-tripping somewhere exotic, or conquer conflicts that feel forced to drive home a point about your affinity for one another. It is this refreshing departure which makes these shows appealing, all while transcending language and culture barriers. *Hospital Playlist* was not just a ratings success when aired in South Korea. It also enjoyed a strong viewership on Netflix where episodes were released simultaneously.

Comfort of sisterhood

Going a step beyond friendships, the sisterhood that the protagonists of *Search WWW* and *Be Melodramatic* share is something we need to see more of on-screen. If *Search WWW* brings the women together in shared solidarity as they pursue their career ambitions, *Be Melodramatic* has them support each other through relationships, grief, and their creative pursuits.

The women in both these shows are unabashedly themselves as they go up against the many curveballs that everyday life throws at them, often reacting to it with deadpan humour about their age and circumstances. There's much to empathise with and think about, especially since we're often left wanting more for women in our local cinema content.

It's the people, places, and even the mundane every day that many K-dramas deal with, which one can't help but seek comfort in. In last year's smash hit *Hometown Cha-Cha-Cha*, the focus might have been on its lead couple, but there's an overarching theme of healing and discovering oneself.

For the uninitiated, Korean entertainment for the longest time was represented by cult favourites such as *Train to Busan*, *Oldboy*, *The Handmaiden*, and of course, most recently, *Parasite*.

The art of making comfort films

But the 'hallyu' wave and its sudden breakthrough over the last three years however has steadily opened up the world of K-dramas to several viewers globally. Platforms such as Netflix and Rakuten Viki have an extensive library of shows with Amazon Prime and Disney+ Hotstar beginning to catch up as well.

What is it that they manage to get so right about this brand of comfort? Most often, feel-good-entertainment has to dangerously toe the line to ensure it doesn't veer into a cloying, saccharine sweet territory. On the other side is content that attempts to hold up a mirror to society. The fact that several K-dramas manage to strike a balance between both is the reason why these shows are evocative, often relatable, empathetic, and most importantly, fun to revel in.

The latest in this line is *My Liberation Notes* which follows the lives of three siblings played by Lee Min-Ki, Kim Ji-Won, and Lee El as they try to break free of the shackles of monotony that has seemingly consumed their life. Despite the themes the show deals with, it has been far from dreary so far. There's something about the languid pace and the constant wonderings about life that its characters indulge in, that one can't help but root for it.

The likes of other Korean thrillers such as *Squid Game* and *All of Us are Dead* might have been bigger hits, but with enough worries in the real world that double up as our own personal brand of monsters, shows that instead feel like a warm blanket on a cold, dreary day are more than welcome.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Good morning, sir,"

"Good morning."

"Sir, what's the difference between 'When is he leaving?' and 'When will he leave?'."

"You use 'when is he leaving', when you know that he will be leaving definitely but don't know when. You are sure of his leaving but are not sure of the date or time of his departure. 'When will he leave' means you want to know whether and when he will leave. You don't know whether he will leave at all! There is no indication that he is planning to leave. Sometimes you can detect a sense of despair in 'when will he leave?'."

"How do you pronounce 'stove', sir?"

"The 'o' in 'stove' is pronounced as in 'toe', 'go', 'though' and 'owe'."

"Sir, what's the meaning of 'go bananas', sir?"

"It means to 'go wild with excitement or rage'. This is American slang. It is used when you become very emotional.

He went bananas when he received the letter.

The monkey gets terribly excited at the sight of bananas. Perhaps this is the origin of the term 'go bananas'.

He went bananas when he saw her."

"Sir, you discussed only the first rule of Orwell. How about the other rules sir?"

"They are simple. The second one says 'never use a long word where a short one will do.' Don't say 'don't expectorate.' Say 'don't spit'.

Don't write 'Feathered bipeds of similar plumage will live gregariously'. What you want to say is: 'Birds of a feather flock together.'

The third rule says that if it is possible to cut out a word, cut it out. Let's look at this sentence.

This is an important and momentous occasion.

You must cut out either 'important' or 'momentous'. Other-examples are: future prospects, new innovation, hot water heater, lonely isolation and so on. The next rule is you shouldn't use the passive when you can use the active.

'I have no doubt that Arabic can be taught by you'.

Change it into:

I have no doubt you can teach Arabic.

The fifth rule we have already discussed. A good example is the plumber's reply to the American Bureau of Standards. Do you remember that?"

"Yes, sir."

"When you speak or write, you must be clear and precise. As far as possible, avoid abstract words and roundabout expressions. You must be careful with what are called 'weasel words'. Theodore Roosevelt popularised the expression 'weasel words'. He said: "you can have universal training, or you can have voluntary training, but when you use the word 'voluntary' to qualify the word 'universal', you are using a weasel word; it has sucked all meaning out of 'universal'. The words flatly contradict each other. Philip Howard has written a book called *Weasel Words*.

He says that 'weasel words are deliberately ambiguous and fuzzy but high sounding words that suck the meaning out of the sentence around them and leave an empty shell. Think of some of the expressions we use these days. "Loan mela', 'limited freedom' 'peace offensive'. Let's stop here for the day. Goodbye."

"Thank you, sir. Goodbye."

THE DAILY QUIZ

The World Metrology Day and World Bees Day are celebrated/observed on May 20. A quiz on terms and trivia about measurements and the winged wonders.

1 Why was May 20 chosen for World Metrology and World Bees Day?

2 As all science students know, there are seven SI base units. So, what are the units for luminous intensity and electric current?

3 Honey bees live in colonies (also called hives) and the residents are divided into three types. Name the three types.

4 Name the scientist after whom the number of units in one mole of any substance (defined as its molecular weight in grams), equal to 6.02214076 × 10^23 (10 to the power of 23), is named.

5 In the context of bees, what is the 'royal jelly'?

6 The International System of Units assigns special names to 22 derived units, which includes two dimensionless derived units. Name the two.

7 What is the two-word term used for the movement performed by a honey bee to indicate to other bees the direction and distance of a source of food?

8 How has William Thomson, the famed British mathematician, mathematical physicist, and engineer, been immortalised as regards the SI system of units?

◄ This legend achieved fame not for his profession as an apiarist but for being one of the first humans to do something monumental. Identify the man and mention the feat he accomplished. • THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This statutory body established the first food museum opened in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu. **Ans: Food Corporation of India**

2. The oldest museum in India and the largest multi-purpose one. **Ans: Indian Museum, Kolkata**

3. This small bronze sculpture is located in this museum. **Ans: The Dancing Girl sculpture; National Museum, New Delhi**

4. This museum was inspired by the pioneering philosopher of Indian art, Ananda Coomaraswamy, and inaugurated by Jawaharlal Nehu. **Ans: The Calico Museum of Textiles**

5. The previous name of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya. **Ans: Prince of Wales Museum of Western India**

6. This man was a freedom fighter who died at the age of 25 at the hands of the British. A museum was recently opened in his name. **Ans: Birsa Munda**

7. A unique museum in Bengaluru is housed in a single room and contains about 400 specimens of this specific organ. **Ans: Brain**

Visual: An extraordinary stone statue of this famous Kushana King was discovered in 1911 in Uttar Pradesh. **Ans: King Kanishka**

Early Birds: Femi Grace| Rohith Natraj| Kavya Yadav| Manya Sharma| Jahnavi Taak

Compiled by: V.V. Ramanan

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, MAY. 20	
RISE 05:54	SET 18:39
RISE 23:17	SET 09:53
SATURDAY, MAY. 21	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:39
RISE 00:00	SET 10:57
SUNDAY, MAY. 22	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:40
RISE 00:10	SET 11:57

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	24
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	23	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm but humid. Night will be pleasant.Chances of light rain and thundershower at few places.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C A mostly dry weather to continue. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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Test all household and primary contacts of positive cases: TAC

The State has since January been following ICMR's purposive testing strategy

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

Reviewing the current scenario of COVID-19 in the country, the State's COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) in its recent meeting has recommended testing of all household and primary contacts of positive cases at work places.

Since January, the State has been following the ICMR's purposive testing strategy that said contacts of infected patients do not need to be tested unless identified as high-risk based on age.

The TAC, which revisited the ICMR's circular (on purposive testing) dated January 10 when the Omicron driven third wave was peaking in the country, has advised the State to ramp up testing to up to 30,000 per day. Of these 15,000 tests should be in Bengaluru and the remaining in the rest of Karnataka, stated the TAC's report.

A BBMP health worker collecting a swab sample for COVID-19 test in Bengaluru. • FILE PHOTO

Specific districts

"The testing numbers should be increased in Bagalkote, Ballari, Bidar, Chikkamagaluru, Chitradurga, Haveri, Kodagu, Raichur, Shivamogga, Udupi and Yadgiri. All ILI/SARI cases and symptomatic persons with inter-state and international travel history should be compulsorily tested," stated the report.

"In the due course of time, it is recommended to develop a criteria / norm of testing that will truly reflect the COVID scenario in populations," the report said.

Although Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai had announced in the last week of April that the daily tests will be increased to 30,000 in the State, districts have not been able to even conduct half of this number. Testing has increased only in the last few days and on Wednesday 20,888 tests were done after a long time.

This is mainly because the ICMR's purposive testing strategy limited the scope of testing. Under this strategy, asymptomatic patients undergoing surgical or non-surgical invasive procedures, including pregnant women in/near labour who are hospitalised for delivery, should not be tested unless warranted or symptoms develop. The ICMR circular also said no emergency procedure, including surgeries, should be delayed due to lack of a test. Besides, interstate travellers also need not be tested.

Not enough people

District authorities said they are not finding enough people meeting this requirement for testing. In the wake of this, Health Commissioner Randeep D. had sought the TAC's opinion on whether the scope of testing can be enhanced.

"I had requested the TAC to relook at the test numbers and testing strategy in order to achieve the higher testing numbers. Now, following the TAC's recommendation, approval of the government will be taken before issuing a fresh testing advisory," the Commissioner told *The Hindu* on Thursday.

Containment strategy

The TAC has also recommended a containment strategy to avoid clustering and spread of COVID after detection of a positive case in the community.

"The infected person should be in home isolation or COVID Care Centre (CCC) or in hospital based on clinical condition and other criteria as per the State notifications till date. Apart from testing all household and primary contacts at the workplace, all symptomatic persons and those with recent history of interstate and international travel in apartment complexes should be compulsorily tested," the TAC's report stated.

"Special actions are needed in apartment complexes in Bengaluru, particularly with reference to use of common areas like closing of party halls, gyms, club areas, swimming pools, etc. as per existing SOPs and making the President and Secretary of the society responsible for the compliance," the report added.

CM cancels BDA notification

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has directed the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) to cancel a public notification calling for objections for change of land use from "tank" to "residential".

The BDA had issued the notification on May 12 in newspapers saying Casa Grand Garden City Builders Pvt. Ltd. had sought change of land use of four acres two guntas of land in survey number 1 and 56 of Doddabettahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, from "water body" to "residential". The builder had cited cartographical error during RMP-2015 for the change of land use.

The notification had drawn the ire of several green activists in the city. Activists had argued that revenue records show the land parcel was categorised as gomala land.

Mr. Bommai on Thursday night issued directions to BDA to cancel the same.

"The CM directed the Commissioner, BDA, to cancel the notification and take action on officers responsible for issuing the notification against public interest. Accordingly, the Commissioner issued the cancellation order," tweeted the Chief Minister's Office.

Passenger complains about wait at airport

'Staff couldn't find keys to arrival hall'

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Television journalist Vir Sanghvi on Wednesday took to Twitter to speak about the inconvenience passengers had to go through at the Kempegowda International Airport. He said that the arrival hall for international passengers could not be opened for 20 minutes as the officers could not find the keys after his flight arrived in the evening.

"At Bangalore airport arriving passengers on Int flights kept waiting because they couldn't find the key to open the arrival hall door to let them in for over 20 min! Many were rushing to make connections. Customs & immigration were great Problem was CISF & bad Apt mgt. @MoCA_GoI," he said in his tweet.

The tweet immediately attracted responses on social media. While some shared similar experiences, most said that they usually have a smooth and efficient experience at BIAL. Mr. Sanghvi also received a reply from BIAL's official Twitter handle. On Thursday, BIAL issued an official statement about the incident.

"The flight (which arrived) had 113 passengers onboard and after exiting the aircraft they reported to a gate leading to the terminal. The security personnel deployed at the gate was unable to immediately open the glass door and sought help from a supervisor who opened the door. All 113 passengers were then able to clear the area fairly quickly. We sincerely regret the inconvenience that this may have caused our passengers," the spokesperson said.

KSRTC driver killed in accident

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A 32-year-old KSRTC driver was killed when a speeding scooter knocked him down while he was crossing the road outside the KSRTC depot on Mysuru Road on Wednesday night.

The deceased, Pradeep, a resident of Kyatasandra, was on his way to work, A case of rash and negligent driving has been registered.

State reports 124 new cases, zero deaths

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka on Thursday reported 124 new cases reducing the day's TPR to 0.64%. The weekly TPR reduced to 0.69% and the total number of cases touched 39,50,128.

Of the new cases, 116 have been reported from Bengaluru Urban alone.

With zero deaths, the State's toll remained 40,064. Besides, 42 deaths due to non-COVID reasons have also been recorded. As many as 159 persons were discharged on Thursday taking the total recoveries to 39,08,296. Active cases touched 1,726.

As many as 19,141 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours, including 14,132 RT-PCR tests. With this, the total number of tests rose to 6,61,47,786.

HC quashes ₹69.7 lakh betterment charge sought by BBMP from school

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has set aside a demand by the BBMP for ₹69.7 lakh from a school as betterment charges to sanction the plan for additional four floors for more classrooms and other facilities for students.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while quashing the July 7, 2014, order of the BBMP demanding from Good Shepherd Convent, on Museum Road, to pay the betterment charges in addition to ₹1.16 lakh paid by the school as scrutiny fee for sanctioning the building plan as per the law.

The BBMP had claimed that it had the power to collect betterment charges under Section 18 and 18A of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning (KTCP) Act, 1961. The High Court also noted that the sections under which the BBMP demanded the betterment charges, surcharge, and cess were for permitting change of land use but the school was not seeking such a change .

On the BBMP's claim that the petitioner-school, which was established long ago, has not applied for any such sanction, or has paid any betterment fee, and the civic body has no other alternative except to raise a demand under KTCP Act, the court said such claim cannot be accepted as any charge or fee can be levied only as per the law.

While quashing the BBMPs demand, the court directed the BBMP to consider petitioner's application in accordance with law.

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Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru-560 064.
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Water yet to recede in Sai Layout

Fire engines deployed, but remain ineffective; volunteers distribute food packets to stranded residents

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Residents of low-lying area Sai Layout in Horamavu are still reeling under the effect of Tuesday night's rain havoc as the area is still under water after two days. Despite multiple fire engines being deployed to pump out water, it has been ineffective.

Volunteers are supplying drinking water and food packets on tractors to the residents stuck in their houses. "We have been supplying food and water to the residents since Wednesday morning and we have pooled in resources to provide relief for the next two days at least," said Anand, a resident of Horamavu.

Waterlogging in Horamavu on Thursday. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

Drinking water

Vidya, a resident, speaking to media persons, said the water sump had been flooded with dirty water and there was no drinking water as the house is flooded.

"Volunteers are helping us, but there is a shortage of drinking water. My daughter had to go to school even in this tough time as the school is not ready to give her leave," she said.

Suresh Chandra, another resident, said the area used to be inundated during heavy rain, but this year was different.

"Water is not receding and has stagnated on the streets and in homes. All of us have moved to upper floors and are staying in neighbour's houses, eating food packets," he said, ruing that the civic authorities had failed to clear the water even after two days.

The Chief Minister skipped the area during his city rounds on Thursday, drawing the ire of the residents.

Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Girinath said Sai Layout was a low-lying area. "We have deployed over six fire engines to pump out the water. But the question is where to pump out the water. It will take some time," he said.

Removal of encroachments on drains to be taken up on priority

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A special drive to clear encroachments on storm-water drains (SWDs) will be taken up on a war footing to ensure free flow of water and prevent flooding, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai told mediapersons after visiting rain-affected areas in north and east Bengaluru.

The city's civic body had made a list of 2,626 buildings encroaching SWDs in 2016, of which 1,480 buildings were demolished. However, the encroachment clearance drive hit a roadblock following a legal challenge. The drive was discontinued and 714 buildings, identified as encroachments, are yet to be cleared, which the Chief Minister said will now be done on a 'war footing'.

"In the SWD network, we provide treatment only where the problem arises. But this will lead to a problem somewhere else. Recently, I held an all-party meeting and have now shifted focus to valley-wise holistic development. A DPR has been prepared identifying all bottlenecks. We have allotted ₹1,600 crore and work will begin soon," Mr. Bommai said. During his inspection of rain-affected areas, the Chief Minister observed that rains on Wednesday night were so intense that at many places drains have overflowed.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai inspects a storm-water drain during a tour of rain-affected areas in Bengaluru on Thursday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"These drains are very old, and are not designed for this population or rainfall. Sewage is also occupying most of the space in these drains. While we ensure sewage is not let into drains, there is a need to widen these drains as well. In Vrishabhavathi Valley, we have observed that some of the old bridges are hindering flow of water. There are 8-10 such bridges. I have asked civic officials to redesign these bridges, and identify places where there is a need to widen drains," he said.

In the short run, Mr. Bommai said the key to prevent flooding is to desilt drains. He has instructed the civic body to not only desilt SWDs, for which the Karnataka Government will provide funds, but also desilt secondary and tertiary drains feeding the SWDs. "I visited several rain-affected areas. In most places, like HBR Layout and Hosakerehalli, desilting of drains could easily prevent such impact on residential pockets," he said.

Mr. Bommai also visited the 100 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant in Hebbal, and announced approval for another 60 MLD plant at the same site.

Protect 'Brand Bengaluru', SMK tells CM

Rain damage may send wrong message to investors, says former Chief Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

As Bengaluru reels under extensive rain damage and residents face huge inconvenience, former Chief Minister and senior BJP leader S.M. Krishna said that the scenario in the city threatens 'Brand Bengaluru', which can hit investments eventually.

"The rain damage has caused anxiety in Bengaluru that is among the fastest growing cities in the world. It has threatened 'Brand Bengaluru' image that may send a wrong message to investors who may take their investments to other States, thus affecting the development of Karnataka," Mr. Krishna wrote in a letter to Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

Recalling his tenure as the Chief Minister from 1999-2004, Mr. Krishna said, "The result of focusing on the IT sector during my tenure resulted in creation of jobs for lakhs of youth and led to creation of a parallel to the Silicon Valley of California. Since then, Bengaluru has grown four times and contributes half of the budget size of the State."

Stressing the need to have a long term vision to protect 'Brand Bengaluru', he said that certain strong steps are required. Mr. Krishna said it is important to revive Bengaluru Agenda Task Force and come out with a blue print with a long term vision. "On a war footing, set up a technical team comprising officials to develop UGD systems in the newly added areas and manage raja kaluves (storm water drains) before the arrival of monsoon," he said.

Mr. Krishna, who helmed the State as a Congress chief minister, said that pressure on Bengaluru should be reduced by developing Mysuru, Tumakuru and Hubballi for industrial development. The upgradation of Bengaluru-Mysuru national highway into a 10-lane highway will create opportunities to develop Mysuru. He urged the Chief Minister to take into confidence MPs and MLAs in Bengaluru, identify problems zone wise and address the problems within a time frame.

He also urged the Chief Minister to seek suggestions from all party leaders for the development of the State.

Bommai reacts

Responding to the letter, the Chief Minister said, "I will definitely take his advice seriously and in the right spirit. We know the concern he has for Bengaluru. A lot of good work happened during his time."

He further told mediapersons, "Now the population has increased many fold and the challenges are huge. We have expanded the city to include several new areas, including 110 villages. These areas do not have a drainage system and drinking water connection."

'Digging roads inevitable'

Mr. Bommai said that digging up roads is inevitable to provide all the amenities. "These villages come with their own baggage of problems. We need to provide better connectivity and decongest Bengaluru to solve various issues," he said.

Red alert in Coastal Karnataka, Shivamogga, and Chikkamagaluru

Holiday for schools in some districts

KARNATAKA BUREAU
BENGALURU

A red alert, which is a warning of extremely heavy rain, has been issued for some districts for Friday, including for all of Coastal Karnataka, Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru and Davangere.

Authorities in Dakshina Kannada and Shivamogga declared a holiday for all schools on Thursday.

In Shivamogga district, many residential areas and agriculture land have been inundated. People who were stranded were rescued by Fire and Emergency Services personnel with the help of ropes and shifted to safer places. With the coastal region receiving heavy to very heavy rains since Wednesday night, the drinking water supply in Sullia town was affected and the construction of a jack well was halted. The town gets water from Payaswini river and the heavy rain has affected the water treatment facility.

A portion of Ambagilu-Kalsanka Road connecting NH 66 and NH 169A via Gundibagilu caved in due to heavy rain in Udupi town on Thursday; (right) Fire and Emergency Services rescuing people in Shivamogga. • THE HINDU

Inundation of TenderSURE and Smart City roads raises questions among citizens

K.V. ADITYA BHARDWAJ
BENGALURU

The heavy rain that lashed the city on Tuesday evening saw TenderSURE and Smart City roads, pitched as a panacea for road infrastructure gaps in the city, heavily inundated, raising questions among citizens.

The recently completed Smart City roads Rhenius Street and Kamaraj Street were inundated and water took several hours to recede. Videos of UB City road, one of the first TenderSURE roads, flooded with waist length water, went viral on social media. Several others like Cunningham Road, Vittal Mallya Road, and Residency Road also saw water logging.

A senior traffic police official said the problem on most of these streets was that the water outlets were not in tune with the gradient of the road, leading to water stagnation.

- The recently completed Smart City roads Rhenius Street and Kamaraj Street were inundated and water took several hours to recede.

Lack of cleaning

He also said the civic body rarely cleaned out the tertiary drains by the side of these streets, which significantly reduces their carrying capacity. "The civic body needs to maintain the drains regularly and at certain points sync the water outlets with the road gradient," the official said.

However, B.S. Prahlad, Chief Engineer, Road Infrastructure, BBMP, said these roads were not flooded but due to heavy rain there was a high run-off that took time to recede from the street. "Tuesday's rain were not only very heavy but came during a very narrow window which led to high runoff on the street," he said.

Rajendra Cholan, MD, Bengaluru Smart City Ltd., said of the 31 streets completed till now under the project, only two streets - Rhenius Street and Kamaraj Road - saw inundation.

"On Rhenius Street, the water outlet point done by the civic body has a design fault which is causing a reverse flow of water on the road. We have inspected it and the civic body has agreed to correct it. Kamaraj Road is a low-lying area to which water from surrounding streets gush in. I have ordered a detailed study of the entire area to sort out the problem," he said.

'Design flaw'

However, citizens argue if these roads are also inundated like other roads, them being touted as design solutions to the city's road mess rings hollow. "The problem is a design flaw. These roads have not been designed taking into account climate change. Very heavy rainfall in a very narrow time window has become more frequent over the recent years. But these roads are not designed for such events. There is a crying need to tweak our roads to sustain such climate events which have become a reality today," said N.S. Mukunda of Bengaluru Praja Vedike.

Excise inspector caught while accepting bribe

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Officials on the ACB on Thursday caught an excise inspector red-handed while allegedly accepting a bribe from the owner of a boarding and lodging facility to issue liquor license .

The accused officer, Manjunath, attached to Kengeri zone, had demanded ₹15 lakh and taken ₹11 lakh in advance to issue the CL-7 license to sell liquor at the facility, officials said.

When Manjunath started demanding for the remaining amount, the owner of the lodge approached ACB and filed a complaint. The officials arrested Manjunath under the Prevention of Corruption Act. The officials also found unaccounted cash of ₹1.02 lakh from him and are investigating further.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our clients **Mr. B V MANJUNATH C/o Mr. B. Venkatesh** and **his wife Mrs. B.M Mallasri** are intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Mrs. GOWRAMMA D/o Mr. Beerappa** and **W/o Mr. Somashekara** any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our client/s shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residential Property Bearing **Site No. 21**, Katha No. 2171, formed out of the composite Property No. 544, situated at **Kaliere Village, K.R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore** measuring towards East 29 Feet, Towards West 34 Feet, towards North 38.4 Feet and towards South 38.4 Feet, in all measuring 1209.6 Square Feet, presently coming under BBMP Limits and bounded on the: **East By : Site No. 20A, West By : Site No. 22, North By : 25 Feet Road, South by : Private Property.**

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-560 043. Contact : 9845846428

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Mr. C.N.Ashok S/o Sri C.K.Narayana** Gowda, Chamareddihalli Village, Mulbagal Taluk, intending to purchase the Schedule property from its owner **Sri G.Ranganath** S/o Sri Gundegowda. If any persons or financial institutions having any claim, right, title and interest on the schedule property, they may file their objection along with supporting documents within **7 days** from today to the below mentioned address. After that the same shall be treated no claim whatsoever in respect of the schedule property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Residential site **No. 2038**, 6th Block, D Sector, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, formed in Sy. No. 63, **Bhimanakuppe Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore** measuring East to West 12 Mtrs and North to South 18 Mtrs. and bounded on:

East by : Site No. 2039, West by : Site No. 2007 North by : 12 Mtr Road and South by : Site No. 30.

(C.M.RAGHUNATH) Advocate.
No.6/1, Sri Subramanyaswamy Temple Street, Kumarapark West Bangalore-560020
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NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

No.Adm/Engg/India Coffee House/ CBHO/2022-23/34
Dated: 19.05.2022

Expression of Interest are invited in two bid systems by Coffee Board for the work of **"Refurbishment of India Coffee House at Coffee Board Head Office, No.1, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001"** on turn key basis. For further details, visit or **www.indiacoffee.org or https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app** last date for submission of sealed tenders is **03.06.2022 by 3:00 PM.** The date of opening of Technical bids is **03.06.2022 at 4.00 PM.**

Joint Director (Extn & Admin i/c)

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Tender Notice No. CN/01/2022
Dated: 18.05.2022

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work:

Description in brief: Multi Section Digital Axle Counter (MSDAC): Supply, design, installation, testing and commissioning of Multi Section Digital Axle Counter (MSDAC) complete system as per RDSO Specification No. RDSO/SPN/176/2013 version.3 with latest amendments STR No. SIQ 0001 Ver.2.0 or latest & Corrigendum-1 with regard to EMD note.

Tender No. 95215631C (Qty: 01 set)

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For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Shradha Agrawal**, Aged about 25 years, W/o. Sri. Manav Mittal, D/o. Sri. Dewakinandan Agrawal, presently residing at No. 108, 7th A Main, 3rd Block, 4th Stage, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru - 560 079, hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SHRADHA AGRAWAL** to **SHRADHA MITTAL** vide affidavit dated 19.5.2022 sworn to before Aravind Patil G.B., Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SHANTI** Chidambaram, spouse of Service No.6089121, Ex Late LAC Madurae Jagdish Ranganathan, resident of Flat No.201, Venkata Sai Land Ridge Apartments, Seegehalli, K.R.Puram, Bengaluru 560049 have changed my name from Shanti Chidambaram to Shanti Jagdish vide affidavit dated: 13.06.2022 before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bengaluru

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I **Jeby** Vellara Jose S/O. Jose R/o Ag 10 Himagiri Enclaves 25th Cross Kaggadasapura Mainrod Cv Ramannagar Bangalore 560093 have changed my name to Jeby Jose for all purposes.

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IN THE COURT OF MS. SUKHVINDER KAUR LD. DJ (COMM-02) SHAHDARA, KARKARDOOMA COURTS, DELHI.
PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT
(Order 5 Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
CS (COMM) NO.-383/2019
ONCALL MEDICARE PVT. LTD. VERSUS
... PLAINTIFF
CALLDOC HEALTHTECH PVT. LTD.
... DEFENDANTS

DEFENDANT NO.1
CALLDOC HEALTHTECH PVT. LTD. NO. 201, GREEN RESIDENCY, 14, KENSINGTON CROSS ROAD, ULSOOR, BENGALURU - 560008.
EMAIL ID - prahlad@calldoc.com
Sudhir@calldoc.com

WHEREAS you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 05 JULY 2022 at 10.00 a.m. fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte. Given under my hand and the seal of the court this 12.05.2022.

Seal
LD. DJ (COMM-02) SHAHDARA, KARKARDOOMA COURTS, DELHI

PUBLIC NOTICE

I ,B. Veerabadrappa S/o.Basappa, Plot No.12, Thirupathi Majestic, Bagalur Road, Hosur 635109, lost my original property Doc No.411/1981 of 1.85 Acre and Doc No.1608/1992 of 17 Cents both in name of Basavarajappa of Hanumanthapura Village, Denkanikottai Taluk, Krishnagiri District. The Complaint has been registered at Begur Police Station Vide NCR No. 96/2022 dt 16.05.22. finder pl contact 8754915017.

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Shri Dharmendra Pradhan,
Hon'ble Union Minister of Education, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship

Shri Keshab Mahanta,
Hon'ble Minister, Health & Family Welfare, Science & Technology, Information Technology, Assam

Date: 20th May, 2022 | **Venue:** IIT, Guwahati | **Time:** 11:00 am

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State has highest number of women married to maternal cousins

Overall, Karnataka has the second-highest consanguineous marriages

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

Karnataka has the highest number of women aged 15-49 married to a first cousin from their mother's side, according to the recently released National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) report.

While 13.9% of the female population in the State is married to a cousin from the mother's side, 9.6% is married to a cousin from the father's side. Marriages to a woman's second cousin and uncle were at 0.5% and 0.2%, respectively. About 2.5% of consanguineous marriages were to other types of blood relatives and 0.1% to those who were previously brothers-in-law, according to the report.

Overall, the State has the second-highest number of consanguineous marriages. While Tamil Nadu tops the list where 27.9% of the female population is married to close blood relatives such as cousins, uncles, and brothers-in-law, Karnataka follows with 26.6%. The national average is far lower at 11%, according to the survey that was conducted between 2019 and 2021.

Patterns

Young women are much more likely than older women to be related to their husbands. Women in urban areas are about equally as likely to be in consanguineous marriages as are women in rural areas. Religion-wise, Muslim and Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist women are the most likely to be in consanguineous marriages.

Genetic disorders

Consanguineous marriages are one of the factors for increased genetic disorders among children. Doctors said the closer the biological relationship between parents, the greater is the probability that their offspring inheriting identical copies of one or more detrimental recessive genes.

Namitha A. Kumar, thalassaemia patient advocate from Open Platform for Orphan Diseases (OPFORD), said if people are marrying within the family, they should get themselves tested for recessive carrier genes such as thalassemia, sickle cell disease, primary immunodeficiencies, and spinal muscular atrophy. All tests should be run during pregnancy like screening for the trisomies and other congenital birth defects, she said.

Consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist Hema Divakar said rather than discouraging consanguineous marriages in populations with such long-held tradition, ensuring access to preconception and premarital counselling services is the logical way to proceed.

"This is more likely to receive community acceptance. Increasing public literacy on consanguinity could be achieved by providing proper education and training to primary healthcare workers on all health and social issues related to consanguinity," she said.

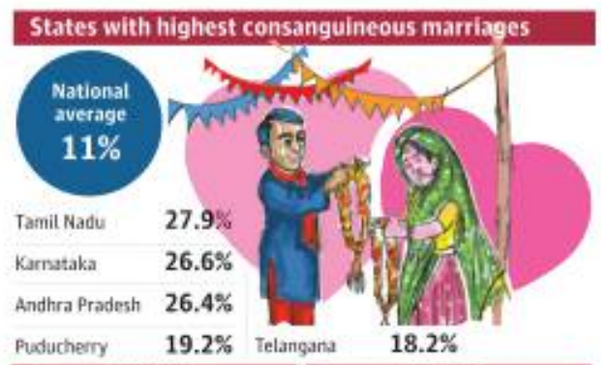
Sheetal Sharda, clinical geneticist, and director, Genomics Development and Implementation at Neuberg Centre for Genomic Medicine, said since the couples in consanguineous marriages share a common ancestor, the genes shared also are common. "There is a higher chance of them being carriers of an abnormal gene, leading to an autosomal recessive genetic disorder as opposed to marriages in non-consanguineous couples," she said.

Counselling

"Such families can be counselled regarding their high risk of having an affected child and guided on appropriate reproductive decisions. Carrier screening can be offered before they plan a pregnancy and if they are found to be carriers, prenatal diagnosis after pregnancy or pre-implantation genetic testing can be offered," she explained.

N. Sapna Lulla, Lead Consultant – Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Aster CMI Hospital, said the hospital was seeing many young couples coming for counselling. "We refer them to the genetic counsellor if they fall in the consanguineous marriage category," she said.

Mitesh Shetty, who heads the Department of Medical Genetics at Manipal Hospitals (Old Airport Road), said premarital carrier screening was now being accepted by communities who have understood the implication of having a child with a genetic disorder. "Appropriate genetic counselling for such couples will benefit them as well society at large in bringing down the incidence of severe genetic disorders," he said.



HDD's recommendation to continue MD after retirement raises eyebrows

Former Prime Minister has written to Chief Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A letter from the former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, recommending the continuation of the Managing Director of Cauvery Neeravari Nigam (CNN) after his retirement on May 31 in the same post, has raised eyebrows in the Water Resources Department.

H.D. Deve Gowda

Mr. Gowda has suggested to Mr. Bommai that the continuation of K. Jayaprakash in the cadre of Engineer-in-Chief in the same post for two years after his retirement on May 31 will be appropriate considering his experience in handling water issues.

The letter dated May 16, 2022 quoted Karnataka Civil Services Rules Para 25(2) to enable the continuation of Mr. Jayaprakash in the same post. Mr. Gowda said the technocrat's experience would be of help in handling water issues of the future, including utilisation of the Cauvery waters through projects such as Mekedatu, and in the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA).

However, department sources pointed out that if the State government agreed to it, it would set a precedent. "Not only can that continuation be challenged legally, but it will also hold up promotion opportunities in the department. As many as 10 chief engineers are now waiting to be promoted as Engineer-in-Chief." There have also been allegations of Mr. Jayaprakash's involvement in irregularities in the works related to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences in Ramanagaram, sources said.

There is a practice of appointing retired officials as advisers or consultant but without providing them executive role, they added.

Parties likely to finalise Council poll candidates on Monday

Lobbying for nomination has intensified across parties; elections on June 3

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The candidates for the Legislative Council polls to be elected from the Legislative Assembly could be finalised across parties by Monday as the last day for filing nomination is Tuesday.

While none of the parties is yet to announce the candidates, lobbying for nomination by probable candidates has intensified. The election to seven seats are being held on June 3 as the term of some members will end on June 14.

BJP State president Nalin Kumar Kateel, KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar, and JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy

One more round of talks

KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday told presspersons here that though he had already held a round of discussion with Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah, they would meet again before sending the names of probable candidates to the party high command for approval. "We have chances to win only two seats and a decision will be taken by the seniors in the best interest of the party," he said.

Party sources said that though over a dozen leaders have been lobbying for the party ticket, it is likely that the two candidates could be chosen from among Lingayats and minorities or OBC to have a balance among communities. "Party candidates could be announced on Monday," said the source.

Meanwhile, in Janata Dal (Secular) after the legislature party meeting passed a resolution authorising party supremo H.D. Deve Gowda to choose the candidate for one seat that the party will win, sources said that an announcement is expected on Monday.

"Three leaders are trying for the nomination of whom the party could nominate one for the Legislative Council and field another in the Rajya Sabha polls," said a party source.

BJP sources said that 15 names of probable candidates were discussed in the core committee meeting recently and a report sent to the central leadership, which is likely to clear the names by Monday. The committee that met last Saturday decided to recommend the name of B.Y. Vijayendra, son of the former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, for the Legislative Council polls.

High Court dismisses with cost software engineer's plea against his termination

He had attempted to resile from settlement that he accepted before a civil court

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has dismissed with cost a plea of a software engineer over his termination from employment while deprecating his conduct of disputing the settlement, which he had not only accepted before a civil court but had also received money from his employer as part of the settlement.

The petitioner, a native of Hyderabad in Telangana, had joined a software company in Bengaluu for an annual pay package of ₹28 lakh. In 2012, the company sent him a communication that it is proposing to terminate his services by paying ₹2.33 lakh as one month's pay.

FROM THE COURT

However, the petitioner filed a suit before a civil court seeking permanent injunction against his termination for forcing him to resign. Meanwhile, both the petitioner and the company reached a settlement, through which the petitioner returned the company's laptop, and accepted termination by receiving ₹4.24 lakh from the company. The petitioner had also signed the order sheet in the civil court for having received a demand draft for ₹4.24 lakh from the company.

Later, the petitioner filed an affidavit before the civil court resiling from the settlement and claimed that "it was involuntary and forced one". Though he had admitted his signature, he had contended that settlement was "passive and involuntary acknowledgment of his advocate and he reserves his right to seek remedy before appropriate forum". This resulted in multiple rounds of litigation before the civil court, the High Court and the labour court, which in 2019 declined to interfere with the termination.

While rejecting his plea, Justice K.S. Mudagal pointed out that the petitioner "went to the extent of saying that his advocate became a passive acknowledger to the order of the Court..."

"Except his self-serving testimony, the workman did not adduce any evidence to show that the settlement before the civil court was forced one. Further, his conduct of raising such contention after receiving the amount militates against him that too when he himself is a qualified engineer and was assisted by an advocate. He did not choose to examine his advocate to substantiate such contention," the High Court observed while stating that a sanctity is attached to the proceedings of the court.

The High Court said that petitioner "cannot be permitted to approbate and reprobate" when he had accepted termination through mutual settlement.

Bommai to leave for Davos on May 22

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday said that the country's economic strength would be showcased at the World Economic Forum Summit to be held in Davos.

Mr. Bommai is set to leave Bengaluru on May 22 to attend the summit and return to Bengaluru on May 26.

"Summit is not just about attracting investments to India, but also about country's environment and ecosystem too would be presented at the summit," the Chief Minister said after participating in a preliminary meeting ahead of the summit.

Mr. Bommai said, "Economic and industrial policies of India and Karnataka are our strength. Economy and ecology go hand in hand. So these aspects too would be reflected at the summit."

Lingayat mahasabha opposes ABVM's decision on change of name

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BELAGAVI

- Decision to include the word 'Lingayat' in Akhila Bharata Veerashaiva Mahasabha's name opposed
- 'The renaming will lead to confusion among the public and derail attempts to get separate religion status for Lingayatism'

Jagatika Lingayat Mahasabha has strongly opposed the decision of the Akhila Bharata Veerashaiva Mahasabha (ABVM) to rename itself Akhila Bharata Veerashaiva-Lingayat Mahasabha.

"Instead, They should call themselves Akhila Bharata Lingayat Mahasabha to reflect its identity of a separate religion and the unique culture," Basavaraj Rotti, national organising secretary of the JLM, said.

"The ABVM was established by religious leaders 118 years ago for the welfare of the community. What was the need to include the word Lingayat after so many years?" he questioned.

He said that ABVM had passed a resolution to change the name to Akhila Bharata Lingayat Mahasabha in the Kumbhakonam national conference in 1940. "But it was never implemented. If that was not done, what is the hurry in implementing this?" he questioned.

The renaming will lead to confusion among the public and derail attempts to get separate religion status for Lingayatism, he said. He maintained that Veerashaiva was one of the 102 sub-groups of "Lingayat religion".

At a meeting in Bengaluru on May 15, ABVM leaders decided to rename the organisation.

ABVM leaders such as Eshwar Khandre described this as a move towards unity and argued that this would end all confusion about the identity of Lingayats. They also claimed that the ABVM represented Lingayats across the country and was committed to their welfare.

SSC invites online applications

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Staff Selection Commission (SSC) will be conducting recruitment to 337 categories of posts with 2,065 vacancies (tentatively). According to a release from the SSC, Karnataka-Kerala Region, selection will be made through computer-based examination mode for 18 categories of posts with 48 vacancies. The deadline for applying online is 11 p.m. of June 13, 2022. For details, visit http://ssckkr.kar.nic.in

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD

INVITATION OF BIDS– TWO COVER – ITEMWAR TENDER SYSTEM (E-Submission) – SHORT TERM- Second Call

IFB No.	01/ F. CWSS to 22 habitations/SDO II/ CW /2022/Dt. 19.05.2022
Fund	Jal Jeevan Mission 2021-22
Eligibility	Registered Class I Bidders (Civil)
Tender Invitee	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Madurai. 625007
Sale of Bid	23.05.2022 to 08.06.2022 up to 17.45 hours
EMD Payable at	Executive Engineer, Urban Division, Tirunelveli
Available website	E-Tendering website www.tntenders.gov.in
Pre Bid meeting	30.05.2022 at 11.00 hours at the office of the Tender Invitee
Bid Submission	09.06.2022 before 15.00 hours at the office of the Tender Invitee. Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering website www.tntenders.gov.in
Bid opening	10.06.2022 at 15.30 hours at the office of the Tender Invitee through E-Tendering website

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approximate value of work (Rs.in Crore including GST)	Bid security (Rs.in lakh)
1.	Providing CWSS to 22 habitations in Manur Union of Tirunelveli District including maintenance for a period of 12 months(Period of completion – 12 months)	13.50	10.15

Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Madurai

SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS

DIPR / 2402 / Tender / 2022

"செலவை குறை வளத்தை பெருக்கு, எதனை பற்று எதிலிருந்து மடங்கு."

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

1st Year Death Anniversary

Thiru.R.Kuppusamy M.E.,
Retd. Principal Govt Polytechnic, Krishnagiri.
Fondly remembered by
Wife, Children, Son-in-Law, Daughters-in-Law & Grand Children
Ct: 95001 22073

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Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Padmanabhanagara Division,
Opposite to Sagar Hospitals,
Kumaraswamy Layout, Bengaluru-560078

No. EE(PN)/TEND/02/22-23 Date: 19.05.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION (SINGLE COVER SYSTEM) (Through GoK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Padmanabhanagara Division, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations for the construction of work detailed in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for works given in the table through E-Procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz., https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in). The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the instructions to tenderers to qualify for award of the contract (standard tender document KW-1).

Tenders must be accompanied by Earnest Money Deposit specified for the work in the table below. Earnest Money Deposit will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the tender document and shall have to be valid for 45 days beyond the validity of the tender.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approximate Value of Work (Rs in Lakh)	EMD (in Rs.)
1.	Establishment of Temporary Control Room for Monsoon Period (from 01/06/2022 to 30/09/2022) in Padmanabhagara Sub Division (2nd Call).	8.00	20,000/-
2.	Establishment of Temporary Control Room for Monsoon Period (from 01/06/2022 to 30/09/2022) in Banashankari Sub Division (2nd Call).	8.00	20,000/-

Cost of tender form in Rs. (Non-Refundable inclusive of GST) : As per E-Procurement Portal. **Stipulated Period:** 120 Days. **Category :** Others.

Calendar of Events: (1) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 16:00 hours on 26.05.2022 and the opening of tenders will be as per the E-Procurement portal guidelines. **(2)** Financial Bids will be opened on the website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in the office of the Executive Engineer (Padmanabhanagara) on or after 27.05.2022 at 4.30 hours. Further particulars can be obtained from the above office during working hours on working days or from **website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Padmanabhanagara Divison

HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410
Wear Mask | Follow Social Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Kerala to get heavy showers for two more days

7 teams of NDRF positioned in various parts of the State; relief camps opened

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Heavy and incessant rain for the fifth straight day on Thursday disrupted normal life in many parts of Kerala, forcing the authorities concerned to open relief camps to accommodate people evacuated from low lying areas.

As many as 12 relief camps have been opened to accommodate 330 people. Seven teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) were positioned in various parts of the State amidst warning of heavy rain for the next two days.

Waterlogging has been reported from low lying areas, particularly in central and north Kerala. The shutters of reservoirs at Aruvikkara in Thiruvananthapuram, Peringakuthu in Thrissur, and Bhoothanthankettu in Ernakulam have been opened minimally to keep the storage limit within the safety threshold.

The authorities have arranged 3,071 buildings to evacuate people from flood-prone areas to relief camps, which can accommodate 4,23,080 people in the event of more rain.

Though the weather bulletin issued by the India Meteorological Department on Thursday predicted substantial reduction in rainfall intensity over South Peninsular India from Saturday, the State is likely to witness isolated heavy and very heavy rainfall for two more days triggered by a cyclonic circulation. A cyclonic circulation lies over north-interior Tamil Nadu and neighbourhood in middle and upper tropospheric levels. It is likely to persist over the region during the next two days and become less marked thereafter. A north-south trough runs from central Madhya Pradesh to interior Tamil Nadu in lower tropospheric levels, the bulletin said.

Water, water everywhere: The waterlogged Gandhi Square at Tripunithura near Kochi on Thursday. • THULASI KAKKAT

The State experienced heavy rainfall in parts of central and north Kerala on Thursday. In the last 24 hours ended at 5.30 p.m. on Thursday, Chalakudy recorded the highest rainfall of 21.8 cm followed by Palluruthy in Ernakulam with 12.3 cm. The IMD has also sounded an orange alert in Ernakulam, Thrissur, and Malappuram on Friday warning of very heavy rainfall (11.5-20.4 cm).

Control room

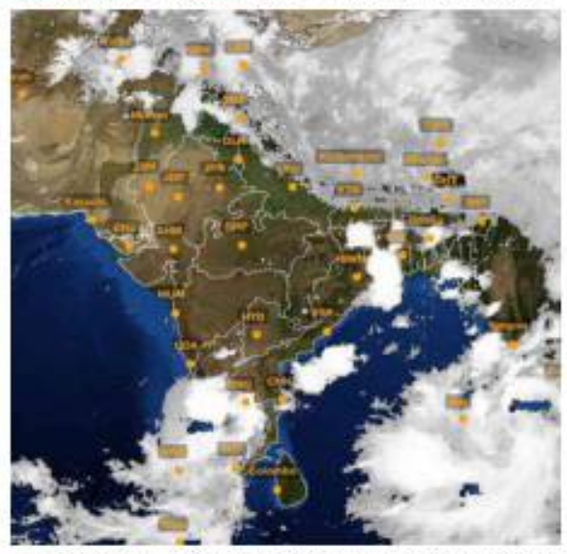
A special control room has been opened at the office of Revenue Minister K. Rajan in the wake of heavy rain. People can contact Ph: 8078548538 in emergency situations. The Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) has advised people to stay away from rivers and waterbodies until the rain subsided. Fishermen were also advised to stay away from fishing activities until further orders.

The latest spell of pre-monsoon rain has also left a large extent of standing crops damaged leading to distress among a section of farmers. Crops such as paddy and banana bore the brunt of the rain. Although the extent of damage is yet to be ascertained, it is estimated that crops to the tune of ₹683.34 crore in 56,829 hectares have been damaged.

The southwest monsoon is likely to set in over the State by May 27, five days earlier than the normal onset date.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	36.4	25.8	Kozhikode	50	27.5	22.2
Ahmedabad	–	43.5	28.2	Kurnool	2	31.6	25.7
Aizawl	18	27.9	17.5	Lucknow	–	42.5	27.8
Allahabad	–	45.7	29.0	Madurai	–	35.5	25.3
Bengaluru	0.8	29.0	21.5	Mangaluru	49.2	23.2	21.8
Bhopal	–	42.3	26.2	Mumbai	–	33.6	27.5
Bhubaneswar	–	34.6	28.1	Mysuru	35	30.0	20.0
Chandigarh	–	42.7	27.0	New Delhi	–	43.6	27.5
Chennai	–	36.7	27.5	Patna	–	40.4	28.6
Coimbatore	1	27.3	20.6	Port Blair	53	28.1	23.4
Dehradun	8	37.6	20.8	Puducherry	–	35.2	25.7
Gangtok	3	20.3	15.7	Pune	–	38.4	25.0
Goa	–	30.8	27.2	Raipur	–	42.0	28.6
Guwahati	16	29.2	22.7	Ranchi	–	39.0	27.3
Hubballi	–	24.0	22.0	Shillong	11	24.3	13.5
Hyderabad	–	35.6	25.2	Shimla	–	31.9	20.6
Imphal	35	25.6	18.4	Srinagar	–	28.4	13.4
Jaipur	–	45.5	30.8	Thiruvananthapuram	13	27.5	25.0
Kochi	114	28.4	23.4	Tiruchi	–	34.7	26.0
Kohima	18	23.4	15.2	Vijayawada	–	36.3	27.6
Kolkata	–	34.1	28.9	Visakhapatnam	–	34.3	28.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	11	13	114	288	167	
Bengaluru	12	33	40	83	94	
Chennai	18	9	55	31	43	
Delhi	42	56	54	279	315	
Hyderabad	4	19	38	57	76	
Kolkata	7	90	12	20	40	
Lucknow	7	95	48	285	275	
Mumbai	13	22	–	316	245	
Pune	–	–	59	299	182	
Visakhapatnam	17	23	8	26	45	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Rohtak, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 326 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 22

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Socialist, writer Nagabhushan is dead

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HASSAN

Veteran writer and socialist D.S. Nagabhushan passed away in Shivamogga in the early hours of Thursday. He was 70.

Mr. Nagabhushan had been suffering from respiratory problems for the past few days. His wife and poet Savita Nagabhushan in a post on Facebook said Mr. Nagabhushan breathed his last around 12.15 a.m.

Mr. Nagabhushan, who served in All India Radio for three decades, has been known for his writings. His latest work *Gandhi Kathana* won the Sahitya Akademi award.

He edited magazine *Hosa Manushya* and it was stopped recently due to his poor health. For many years he conducted study workshops on socialism.

D.S. Nagabhushan

Mr. Nagabhushan is known for his strong opinions and debates with fellow writers.

He had been responding to political developments actively through his letters to newspapers.

E-bike goes up in flames in A.P.; none hurt

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
ONGOLE

An electric bike caught fire at Mentevari Thota in Bhimavaram of Andhra Pradesh.

M. Adi Narayana Murthy purchased an electric two-wheeler a few days ago. On Wednesday, when he was riding the two-wheeler, passersby noticed smoke emanating from the vehicle and alerted him.

Mr. Murthy immediately parked the vehicle and alighted from it. Within no time, the vehicle caught fire and was soon engulfed in flames and was reduced to ashes.

Fire personnel said the reason for the mishap was not known immediately.

UAE-based company loses claim against A.P. government

IDRC in London dismisses plea citing lack of jurisdiction

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

The International Dispute Resolution Centre for Arbitration and Mediation (IDRC) in London dismissed a claim filed by Ras Al-Khaimah Investment Authority (RAKIA) against the Indian government for damages amounting to $273 million payable by Andhra Pradesh government consequent upon its failure to supply bauxite from Jerrela deposits located in the Eastern Ghats in Visakhapatnam district as per the Bauxite Supply Agreement (BSA) of October 2008.

With this, the Andhra Pradesh government scored a major victory in the IDRC as it would have otherwise had to pay the amount to the Government of India. India is a party to the dispute by virtue of signing a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for the construction of an alumina refinery by Anrak Aluminium Limited (ANRAK) incorporated by RAKIA.

The allegation by RAKIA was that the failure to supply bauxite and the cancellation of the BSA entered into by A.P. Mineral Development Corporation (APMDC) with ANRAK, constituted a breach of the BIT.

The Indian government denied any such breaches and maintained that the IDRC's arbitral tribunal lacked jurisdiction because the provisions of the BIT for arbitration at the instance of the investor (RAKIA) do not apply to this case.

The crux of the issue was a notice served by APMDC in November 2016 for cancellation of the BSA allegedly for breaches on the part of ANRAK.

The IDRC tribunal dismissed RAKIA's appeal for damages, saying it lacked jurisdiction under the BIT to entertain its claim.

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE
Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao Road, Nagarabhavi P.O. Bengaluru-560 072. www.isec.ac.in

TENDER FOR HOUSEKEEPING SERVICES

No: ISEC/Reg/Estate/2022-23 Date: 20th May 2022

Two separate sealed Tenders, viz., (i) Technical Bid and (ii) Financial Bid, are invited from the reputed Agencies providing Housekeeping services and registered in Karnataka for providing these services to the **Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru.**

Interested agencies may down load the format from website **www.isec.ac.in.** Duly filled tender along with EMD of Rs.75,000/- (Rupees Seventy Five Thousand only) by way of DD/Pay order of any scheduled Bank drawn in favour of **"Registrar, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru"**, should be submitted to The Registrar, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Dr.V.K.R.V. Rao Road, Nagarabhavi PO, Bengaluru 560 072. Last Date for submission: 6th June 2022. Tenders will be opened on 7th June 2022 at 11.00 am in the Committee Room. Interested Tenderers may be present while opening the tenders.

Registrar - ISEC

REC-22824

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
No.5/6, 5th Floor, Jlabhavana,
Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560029.
Tel : 080 – 26539004 / 41106504-18
e-mail: cekwbbng@gmail.com Website : www.kuwsdb.org

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Electronic Procurement portal only)

No. KWB/ CE(B)/TEC/DCE-I/AE-6/RM-8/305/22-23 dt.18/5/2022

Item rate Tenders for the following work is invited through e-Procurement Portal (https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in) from the eligible Bidders who fulfills the qualification criteria as detailed in the Bidding document:

Name and description of facilities : Replacement of pumping machineries for RM-8 with 02Nos of 400HP or suitable capacity at KRWW in Shivamogga City under Deposit contribution of SCC

KUWSDB/2022-23/EL/WORK_INDENT 3153

Estimated value of facilities (Rs in Lakhs): 164.41 (Exclusive of GST)

Earnest Money Deposit : Rs. 2,50,000.00

Tender Processing fees : As per e-procurement portal

Period of completion including monsoon : 6 months.

Calendar of Events:-

1) Documents will be available from : 19.05.2022. 2) Last Date & Time for seeking Queries / Clarifications: 25.05.2022 upto 11:00 hours. 3) Date & Time of pre bid meeting 25.05. 2022 at 11.30 hours. 4) Last date and time for submission / uploading of the tender in the e- procurement portal : 02.06.2022 upto 17.30 hours. 5) Date and time for opening of Technical tenders: 06.06.2022 after 11.00 hours. 6) Date and time for opening of Financial bids: 08.06.2022 after 11.00 hours.

For further details, the Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Bangalore, may please be contacted or website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in or e-Procurement helpdesk 91-8046010000/+91-8068948777, email support: support.eprochelpdesk.com.

Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER, KUWS & D BOARD, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/5710/AKAR/22-23

COVID-19 - DON'T SPREAD RUMOURS. ACT RESPONSIBLY, AVOID INFECTION-NOT THE INFECTED.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Social Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood
Society For Karnataka German Multi Skill Development Centre
(A Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the KGMSDC, CoE Building, Kaushalya Bhavan Campus, Bannerughatta Road, Bengaluru - 560029. Ph.: 080-29649797, Website: kgmsdc.karnataka.gov.in
No: KGS/EST/KGT/BNG/GUL/CR-02/2022-23 Date: 19.05.2022

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

KGMSDC Society promoted by Government of Karnataka and Government of India with technical support of German International Cooperation (GIZ-IS) Germany has already established Five Advanced Multi Skill Development Centres (KGTTIs) at **Bengaluru, Kalaburagi, Belagavi, Mangaluru and Hubballi.** The Society is looking for dynamic people with a passion for teaching / training for the following position.

Sl. No.	Position	Location	Number of Post
01	Director	KGTTI, Kalaburagi	01
02	Director	KGTTI, Bengaluru	01

Detailed requirements of the position & information can be obtained from our website: **kgmsdc.karnataka.gov.in**
Note: Reservation is applicable as per Govt. Notification, the Karnataka Public Employment (Reservation-in Appointment) for Hyderabad-Karnataka Region, order 2013, dt. 06.11.2013.

Sd/- Member Secretary, KGMSDC, Bengaluru

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.:SEE/Tr.(W&M)/C/KLB/EEE(O)/Civil/2022-23/652 Date: 19.05.2022

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Tenders for **05 numbers of dismantling** of quarters coming under the jurisdiction of Transmission Circle, Kalaburagi as follows.

Sl. No.	Name of Works	Approximate amount put to tender in (Rs.)	Reserved for Category
1.	Dismantling the 2'1/2 Blocks of JE Quarter at 110kV S/S Jewargi	1,22,976.58	Others
2.	Dismantling the 3 Blocks of LM Quarter at 110kV S/S Jewargi	54,591.44	Others
3.	Dismantling the 1 Block of Section Officer Quarter at 110kV S/S Jewargi	26,009.02	ST
4.	Dismantling the 1 Block of type-VII Quarter at 110kV S/S Jewargi	22,131.59	SC
5.	Dismantling the 3 Blocks of LM Quarter at 110kV S/S Jewargi	56,074.64	Others

For any details regarding the above works can be contact in the office of under signed and contact no.:9448991288.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer(Elec), Trans(W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Kalaburagi

Government of Karnataka
BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of the Executive Engineer Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S.Kariyappa Road, Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple) Bangalore - 560070.
No. EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/AE-1/07/2022-23 Dated: 17.05.2022

E-Procurement Tender Notice

Tenders are invited through e-procurement by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, **For MLA Grants Works**. The work details can obtained from the e-procurement Website. The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before Dated: **03.06.2022 upto 4.00 pm**. Further details can be obtained from website at **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D, B.U, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/5716/Zenkar/2022-23

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ.
Ph No. : 08156-270058
E-mail ID: **eerdwsd.ckb2@gmail.com**
ಸಂ:ಕಾಪಾಅ/ಗ್ರಾ.ಕುನೀ&ನೈ/ವಿಸಿ/ಟೆಂ/ಎಇ-2/2022-23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.05.2022

ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 02/2022-23
ದಿನಾಂಕ : 13.05.2022

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ, ಇವರು ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನಲ್ಲಿನ ಮಂಡಿಕಾಳ್ ಮತ್ತು ಸುತ್ತಲಿನ ಇತರೆ 13 ಜನವಸತಿ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಿಗೆ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ (ಡಿಬಿಓಟಿ ಆಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ) ಅರ್ಹ ಬಿಡ್ದುದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಗೆ ವಿನಂತಿಯನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ, ನಿಯಮ 28ರ ಅನುಸಾರ ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯನ್ನು ಅನುಸರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ (ಜೆಜೆಎಂ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕು.

(1) ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜುಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **13.05.2022** ರಿಂದ **14.06.2022**, ಸಂಜೆ **4.30** ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ. (2) ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: **14.06.2022**, ಸಂಜೆ **4.30** ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ. (3) ಪ್ರೀಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆ: **25.05.2022**, ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ **11.00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಸ್ಥಳ: ಸಿ.ಆರ್.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ.ಎಸ್., ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು. (4) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: **15.06.2022**, ಸಂಜೆ **5.00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. (5) ಹಣಕಾಸು ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: **18.06.2022**, ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ **11.00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ,ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

ಕೊವಿಡ್-19, ಆತಂಕ ಬೇಡ; ಮುನ್ನೆಚ್ಚರಿಕೆ ಇರಲಿ.
ಮಾಸ್ಕ್ ಧರಿಸಿ | 6 ಅಡಿ ದೈಹಿಕ ಅಂತರ ಪಾಲಿಸಿ | ಕೈಗಳ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತೆ ಕಾಪಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಿ

FORM NO. URC-2
Advertisement giving notice about registration under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Act
(Pursuant to section 374(b) of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 4(1) of the Companies (Authorized to Register) Rules, 2014)

1. Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of Section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application is proposed to be made after fifteen days hereof, but before the expiry of thirty days here inafter to the Registrar of Companies, Bengaluru, 'E' Wing, 2nd Floor, Kendriya Sadana, Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560034, that EPDPL Coliving Operations LLP ("the LLP") a LLP may be registered under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act 2013, as a company limited by shares.
2. The principal objects of the company is summarized as under: "To carry on the business of providing Business Center Services, shared living/ coliving services, shared office space services including but not limited to assisting and consulting in starting a company providing facilities like set up services, support services, internet providing, networking and other related services which a startup entrepreneur required and to providing accommodation to the students and individuals as paying guest and also creating a community of professional on web and mobile based plat form who shall work as a collaborative community and leverage from a shared economy in India or elsewhere"
3. A copy of the draft memorandum and articles of association of the proposed company may be inspected at the registered office of the LLP at 1st Floor, Embassy Point, 150, Infantry Road, Bengaluru – 560001.
4. Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communicate their objection in writing to the Registrar at Central Registration Centre (CRC), Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Plot No. 6, 7, 8, Sector 5, IMT Manesar, Gurgaon (Haryana), 122050, with in twenty one days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the LLP at its registered office.

Sd/-
Aditya Virwani
Designated Partner
DPIN : 06480521
EPDPL Coliving Operations LLP

Date : May .19 .2022
Place : BENGALURU

ZILLA PANCHAYATH, RAMANAGARA
RURAL DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION DIVISION
RAMANAGARA.

Short Term Tender Notification No. : 08/EE/RDWS&SD/RMG/Tender/ AE.1/444-453/2022-23 Date : 17-05-2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited by the undersigned on behalf of **Governor of Karnataka in "Two Cover System"** Through E-procurement Portal for **"Multi Village Drinking Water Supply Scheme to 625 Habitations of Magadi Taluk and 250 Habitations of Ramanagara Taluk in Ramanagara District from Machanabele Reservoir on Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) Basis".** Sanctioned under JJM. **Estimated Cost : Rs. 670.00 Crores.**

Amount Put To Tender : Rs. 504.22 Crores. Earnest Money Deposit EMD : Rs. 5.04 Crores. Eligibility : PWD Class-1 Contractor (Pre-Qualification Condition mentioned in the Tender Document).

Calendar of Events : 1) The Contractor can Download the Tender Document from : 17-05-2022. 2) Pre-Bid Meeting : 25-05-2022. 3) Place of Pre-Bid Meeting : Office of the CE, RWSSD, 1st Floor, KHB Complex, K. G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009. 4) Last Date for Submission of Tender : 18-06-2022. 4) Opening of Technical Bid of the Tender : 20-06-2022. 5) Opening of Financial Bid of the Tender : 24-06-2022.

The Blank Tender Documents can be viewed or Downloaded from E-procurement Portal, details of Work / Eligibility of Contractor / Tender Processing Fees / Dates of Events etc., can be had from **Website : www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Further information can be had from the undersigned during Office hours. Right of Acceptance of Tender is reserved. **E-Procurement Portal helpdesk : 080-22371090 / 22373788, Helpdesk.blr@intarvo.com**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RDW&S Department, Ramanagara Division.

DIPR/Ramanagar/73/Manipal/2022-23

By the book

Reservations should serve a development purpose and not be a weapon of divisiveness

The Supreme Court has allowed Madhya Pradesh to implement 14% reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and notify the elections for nearly 23,263 local bodies within two weeks. The Court had on May 10 ordered the State to proceed with the elections without OBC quotas. The Court has since then reassured itself that the State has met the 'triple test' criteria it had established in 2010 for OBC reservation in local bodies – a commission that undertook contemporaneous empirical inquiry into the nature and implications of the backwardness in the context of local bodies, break-up of the reservation local body-wise, and adherence to the 50% ceiling on quotas. Madhya Pradesh had already provided for reservation for women besides Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and its proposed quota for OBCs is 14%, to keep the aggregate within the 50% ceiling. The State has convinced the Court that it had indeed met the triple test, but the validity and accuracy of the commission report remain open to further judicial scrutiny. The Madhya Pradesh government and the Bharatiya Janata Party have welcomed the order which they publicise as their success; the Opposition Congress has said OBCs deserve 27% reservation, and blames the BJP government for its failure to impress upon the Court, on the quantum.

Madhya Pradesh and Odisha are also facing judicial scrutiny of their plans for OBC reservation in local bodies, and this remains a controversial question on which the law is still evolving and public opinion is fractious. The Court has held that the criteria for reservation in job and education, which is social and educational backwardness, need not be applied for reservation in local bodies. Backwardness to be established for political reservation can be of a different nature, it had held. OBCs collectively form more than half the population of India and many communities want to be included in the category. The politics of the country is largely litigated among this segment, and suggestions and demands are raised on a regular basis. There is demand for removing the 50% ceiling on quotas, a caste-based census that the Centre is opposing but clamour for which is growing, and reservation in the private sector. While quotas have proven to be an effective instrument of empowerment and justice, competitive politics around them often leads to a paralysis of politics and governance. Making the reservation regime fair, objective, and empirical is a major governance challenge, and the Court's attempts in that direction is welcome. Political parties and governments must act in tandem with the judiciary so that reservation programmes do not turn divisive but serve a development purpose.

Crushing lives

Strict enforcement of rules in quarries alone can prevent environmental and human costs

Working in hazardous sites such as quarries, where explosives and heavy machinery are deployed, is fraught with risks. But human casualties in accidents caused at such sites due to greed-induced exploitation, violation of safety and operational norms, and collusion with regulators, involve an element of culpability. The death of three workers at the privately owned Venkateshwara Stone Crusher Unit, at Adaimithippaankulam in Tamil Nadu's Tirunelveli district, bears tragic testimony to this. Here, a falling boulder trapped six workers and their heavy vehicles under debris in a 300-feet deep stone quarry on Saturday night. The management, according to the State Director of Mining and Geology, was served a closure notice last month and instructed to suspend operations, after violations. Yet, the operations went on illegally until the fateful night, which brought officials, politicians and rescuers to the site. Perhaps, a random inspection in the interregnum could have prevented the loss of lives. The preliminary inquiry suggests the crusher unit, which has facilities for the manufacture of M-Sand and blue metal, had compromised safety along the vehicle path. The breach in the mandated 10 feet distance between the upper vehicle path and the immediate lower path is believed to have caused the falling boulder to plunge deeper into the quarry, aggravating the tragedy.

The Revenue Secretary has announced a comprehensive safety audit exercise in all stone quarries. Given that a political nexus, quarry operations and the grant of licences are inseparable, such crackdowns have rarely been effective. The plundering of natural resources including in the ecologically sensitive Western Ghats due to excessive blasting and mining has been well documented by committees, either appointed by the government or by the courts. For instance, former IAS officer U. Sagayam, as the Madras High Court-appointed Legal Commissioner, had estimated ₹16,000 crore loss to the exchequer due to illegal granite mining in the Madurai region alone. There has been a mushrooming of unlicensed quarries too. Just last year the High Court had ordered the closure of 64 unlicensed stone quarries in Tiruppur district, based on the findings of an advocate-commissioner. The revenue loss aside, it is impossible to fix a cost to the resultant irretrievable damage to the environment and risk exposure to humans. The big sharks have been targeted mostly when a ruling party has an axe to grind. There is now a spurt in the quarrying volume in the Tirunelveli-Kanniyakumari region to meet the huge demand from Kerala, where an estimated 80% of quarried materials is transported. It calls for the enforcement of restrictions on such inter-State transport of minerals. Immediate responses to tragedies usually have a short life. Only a genuine administrative will to sustain the enforcement of rules in quarries is of real consequence.

Bridging the health policy to execution chasm

India's States need to act quickly in setting up a public health and management cadre for a healthier society

CHANDRAKANT LAHARIYA

In April this year, the Union government released a guidance document on the setting up of a 'public health and management cadre' (PHMC) as well as revised editions of the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) – for ensuring quality health care in government facilities. For a country where politicians take pride in inaugurating super-specialty hospitals and where the health focus has traditionally been on medical care or attention on treating the sick, these two developments to strengthen public health services are welcome.

A background, the fallout

The 'public health and management cadre' is a follow up of the recommendations made in India's National Health Policy 2017. At present, most Indian States (with exceptions such as Tamil Nadu and Odisha) have a teaching cadre (of medical college faculty members) and a specialist cadre of doctors involved in clinical services. This structure does not provide similar career progression opportunities for professionals trained in public health. It is one of the reasons for limited interest by health-care professionals to opt for public health as a career choice.

The outcome has been costly for society: a perennial shortage of trained public health workforce. The proposed public health cadre and the health management cadre have the potential to address some of these challenges. With the release of guidance documents, the States have been advised to formulate an action plan, identify the cadre strengths, and fill up the vacant posts in the next six months to a year.

The revised version of the IPHS once again underscores the continued relevance of improved quality of health services through public health facilities. This is the second revision in the IPHS, which were first released in 2007 and then revised in 2012. The regular need for a revision in the IPHS is a recognition of the fact that to be meaningful, quality improvement has to be an ongoing process. The development of the IPHS itself was a major step. Nearly two decades ago, in many countries including India, there was limited attention on ensuring quality. Increasing access to health services and improving the quality of care were perceived as a sequential process: first focus on increasing access and then a thought may be given to ensuring quality (which rarely happened).

Role and relevance

The voices for having public health services and workforce in India have always been few and feeble. Understandably, the need for a public health cadre and services in India rarely got any policy attention. Arguably, the reason was that even among policymakers, there was limited understanding on the roles and the functions of public health specialists and the relevance of such cadres, especially at the district and sub-district levels. At best, epidemiologists were equated with public health specialists, failing to recognise that the latter is a much broader and inclusive group of specialists. However, the last decade and a half was eventful. The initial threat of avian flu in 2005-06, the Swine flu pandemic of 2009-10; five more public health emergencies of international concern between years 2009-19; the increasing risks and regular emergence and re-emergence of of new viruses and diseases (Zika, Ebola, Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic fever, Nipah viruses, etc.) in animals and humans, resulted in increased attention on public health. In 2017, India's National Health Policy 2017 proposed the formation of a public health cadre and enacting a National Public Health Act. Yet, progress on these fronts was slow as usual.

The COVID-19 pandemic changed the status quo. For months together, everyone was looking for professionals trained in public health and who had field experience; they were simply far and few. It became clear that 'epidemic' and 'pandemic' required specialised skills in a broad range of subjects such as epidemiology, biostatics, health management and disease modelling, to list a few. In the absence of trained public health professionals at the policy and decision making levels, India's pandemic response ended up becoming bureaucrat steered and clinician led. Every struggle in the pandemic response was a reminder that a clinician, no matter how experienced in administration, could not fulfil the role of the epidemiologists and public health specialists, who are specially trained to make a decision when there is limited information about a pathogen and its behaviour.

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A continuing role in care

A public health workforce has a role even beyond epidemics and pandemics. A trained public health workforce ensures that people receive holistic health care, of preventive and promotive services (largely in the domain of public health) as well as curative and diagnostic services (as part of medical care). A country or health system that has a shortage of a public health workforce and infrastructure is likely to drift towards a medicalised care system. In 2022, there is greater clarity on the role of the public health workforce, which is a remarkable starting point. However, the delay in policy decisions on a public health cadre is also a reflection of a long and tortuous journey of policy making in India. These two new cadres have come up late but the focus now has to be on accelerated implementation.

The revised IPHS is an important development but not an end itself. In the 15 years since the first release of the IPHS, only a small proportion – around 15% to 20% – of government health-care facilities meets these standards. This raises a legitimate question on whether development (and revision) of such quality standards is ritualistic practice or whether these are considered seriously for policy formulation, programmatic interventions and for corrective measures. If the pace of achieving IPHS is any criteria, there is a need for more accelerated interventions. Opportunities such as a revision of the IPHS should also be used for an independent assessment on how the IPHS has improved the quality of health services.

Imperfect implementation

Drafting of well-articulated and sometimes near perfect policy documents, even though in a delayed manner, is a skill which Indian policymakers have mastered well. However, the implementation of most such policies leaves a lot to be desired. The IPHS implementation in the last 15 years is one such example. It is difficult to predict the outcome of the PHMC guidance document; however, the past can guide the process.

The effective part of implementation is interplay: policy formulation, financial allocation, and the availability of a trained workforce. In this case, policy has been formulated. Then, though the Government's spending on health in India is low and has increased only marginally in the last two decades; however, in the last two years, there have been a few additional – small but assured – sources of funding for public health services have become available. The Fifteenth Finance Commission grant for the five-year period of 2021- 26 and the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) allocations are available for strengthening public health services and could be used as catalytic funding – which should be used in the interim – as States embark upon implementing the PHMC and a revised IPHS.

The third aspect of effective implementation, the availability of trained workforce, is the most critical. Even the most well-designed policies with sufficient financial allocation may falter because of the lack of a trained workforce. As States develop plans for setting up the PHMC, all potential challenges in securing a trained workforce should be identified and actions initiated.

Helping States

One, the level of interest among States in implementing the public health and management cadres needs to be explored and a centre of excellence in every State should be designated to guide this process. States which are likely to show reluctance need to be nudged through appropriate incentives. Two, the idea of mapping and an analysis of human resources for public health and then scaling up of recruitment are logical. However, it needs to be ensured that in an overzealous attempt to achieve numbers, the quality of training of the required workforce is not compromised. Setting up these two new cadres should be used as an opportunity to improve and standardise the quality of training in public health institutions. Three, it would take a few years before the PHMC becomes fully functional in the States. However, the implementation process needs to be started in the next few months to avoid the risk of it becoming a low priority. Four, the success of the PHMC would be dependent upon the availability and the equitable distribution of health staff for all other categories at government health facilities. Therefore, as new cadres are being set, efforts need to be made to fill vacancies of health staff in all other positions as well.

Three years before the COVID-19 pandemic had started, the Indian government had committed, through NHP 2017, to achieve the goal of universal health coverage – which envisages access to a broad range (preventive, promotive, curative, diagnostic, rehabilitative) health-care services which meet certain quality standards, at a cost which people can afford. The public health and management cadres and the revised IPHS can help India to make progress towards the NHP goal. To ensure that, State governments need to act urgently and immediately.

Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya is a physician, public policy and health systems specialist and an epidemiologist, based in New Delhi

Pockets of hope, linking nature and humanity

It is important to increase the number of biosphere reserves in South Asia to ward off a doomsday ecological scenario

ERIC FALT

Biodiversity is the living fabric of our planet. It underpins human well-being in the present and in the future, and its rapid decline threatens nature and people alike.

According to the Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services released in 2019 by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, the main global drivers of biodiversity loss are climate change, invasive species, over-exploitation of natural resources, pollution and urbanisation.

The earth is under strain

Because of our collective excesses, the ecological carrying capacity of planet earth has largely been exceeded. This trend needs to be redressed, with cleaner air, high quality drinking water, and enough food and healthy habitats to ensure that ecosystem services continue to benefit humanity without critically affecting nature's balance. Whether we look at nature from an environmental, from a cultural or even from a religious point of view, it is our responsibility and clearly in our interest to respect the environment.

In fact, the possibilities exist, and all is not lost. In the last 50 years or so, much has been accomplished for the protection of nature, including the establishment of conservation areas, and a number of international conventions have been signed and ratified.

Biosphere reserves are key

One of the best mechanisms that has been created is the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, created in 1971 by UNESCO. Biosphere reserves are places where humans live in harmony with nature, and where there is an effective combination of sustainable development and nature conservation. They represent pockets of hope and proof that we are not inexorably headed towards a doomsday ecological scenario, provided we take appropriate action.

In South Asia, over 30 biosphere reserves have been established. The first one was the Hurulu Biosphere Reserve in Sri Lanka, which was designated in 1977 and comprises 25,500 hectares within the tropical dry evergreen forest.

In India, the first biosphere reserve was designated by UNESCO in 2000 within the blue mountains of the Nilgiris. It stretches across the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala. The network has gone from strength to strength, and it now counts 12 sites, with Panna, in the State of Madhya Pradesh, as the latest inscription in 2020.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

We need many more biosphere reserves and pockets of hope, and the region offers countless options.

Diverse systems

South Asia has a very diverse set of ecosystems. To begin with, Bhutan, India and Nepal combined have thousands of glaciers, surrounded by lakes and alpine ecosystems.

The Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve, established in 2018, is a good model. It includes some of the highest ecosystems in the world, with elevations up to 8,586 metres. The reserve is home to orchids and rare plant species. At the same time, more than 35,000 people live there. Their main economic activities are crop production, animal husbandry, fishing, dairy products and poultry farming.

Bangladesh, India, the Maldives, and Sri Lanka all have extensive coastlines, with coral reefs and mangrove forests. These areas are exposed to extreme weather events (storms, floods, droughts), and sea-level rise.

The Maldives are recognised as the lowest-lying country in the world, with a mere elevation of 1.5 metres above the high tide mark. Together with UNESCO, the archipelago has embarked on a plan to establish pilot sites for the conservation and restoration of coastal ecosystems, and to enhance the population's knowledge on climate change adaptation. Separately, three biosphere reserves have already been created in the Maldives.

Run on science-based plans

UNESCO Biosphere Reserves have all developed science-based management plans, where local solutions for sustainable human living and nature conservation are being tested and best practices applied. Issues of concern include biodiversity, clean energy, climate, environmental education, and water and waste management, supported by scientific research and monitoring. The aim is to detect changes and find solutions to increase climate resilience.

All biosphere reserves are internationally recognised sites on land, at the coast, or in the oceans. Governments alone decide which areas to nominate. Before approval by UNESCO, the sites are externally examined. If approved, they will be managed based on an agreed plan, reinforced by routine checks to ensure credibility, but all remain under the sovereignty of their national government.

Some of the countries in South Asia do not yet have any or enough biosphere reserves. In most if not all cases, the political will is certainly there but there is a lack of know-how and financial resources. Of course, more financial support from richer nations and from the private sector would be desirable for establishing biosphere reserves in these countries.

The priority countries

Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal are on the priority list of UNESCO, because they do not yet have any biosphere reserves. Their governments are already working on their first nomination files. Our organisation also believes that it would be important to increase the number of biosphere reserves in India, the Maldives and Sri Lanka.

The point is that if these pockets of hope can expand, with at least one biosphere reserve per country, and with more and larger sites covering the terrestrial surface, including coastal areas with their offshore islands, it will give the realisation to millions of people that a better future is truly possible, one where we can truly live in harmony with nature.

On May 22 and on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity, let us do what is right. Now is the time to act for biodiversity.

Eric Falt is the Director of the UNESCO New Delhi Office, which covers Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, the Maldives, and Sri Lanka. UNESCO is a member of Team UN in India, together helping deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

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Court verdict, impact

The Congress party is in distress over the Supreme Court judgment freeing the Rajiv Gandhi assassination convict A.G. Perarivalan. At the same time, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam in Tamil Nadu is in a mood for celebration. The beneficiaries of the judgment are the DMK's ideological friends. When there are political undertones to the case, only the court should take the decisions rather than political parties making recommendations to the Governor. Second, when the convict's innocence is not certain, as observed in the Editorial (May 19), empowering State cabinets to recommend the release of prisoners does not augur well for the country's legal system.

P. MANGALACHANDRAN,
West Poreiam, Kannur, Kerala

■ The top court has done what it has done. While I do not know the extent of Perarivalan's involvement in the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, there is no doubt that he is one of the very small group of people who, by their action of assassinating the leader, have definitely changed the course of the history and politics of India. Would this thought have occurred to Perarivalan, while posing before cameras now, about how much his role has affected India?

M.S. SUNDARESAN,
Mumbai

■ Prolonged incarceration, satisfactory conduct, chronic ailments, educational qualifications, etc., are not at all convincing in securing the release of a convict linked to a crime as heinous as the assassination of the former Prime Minister. Also, what is clear is that the Indian judiciary should look inwards and ponder over the extreme delay in the disposal of cases; the case backlog across India is mind-boggling.

N.S.R. MURTHY,
Secunderabad

■ Perarivalan is now a free man and the long years that have lapsed from his life and the rights he could not have had can never be compensated. Undoubtedly, the case exposes the complexity and sluggishness of our political and judicial systems, which often fail to do justice to the ordinary citizen. One hopes that the verdict will open the eyes of the very people who should be upholding the rights of citizens.

BIJUMON P.N.,
Mannthuvalom, Upputhara, Kerala

Can India re-imagine South Asia?

PARLEY

If New Delhi does not take the lead, the region cannot respond to various crises collectively

After weeks of protests, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa stepped down this month, but that is not the only big political non-electoral change in the neighbourhood in 2021-22. Just a month ago, it was Pakistan; a year ago, it was Nepal. Power changed hands through more coercive means in Myanmar and Afghanistan. Their polities have yet to settle down. How should India react to these changes? Is there a common strain running across the region in these developments? Shyam Saran and Srinath Raghavan discuss these questions and more with **Suhasini Haidar**. *Edited excerpts:*

A vandalised portrait of former Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa outside President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's office in Colombo. • AP

Are these changes in the neighbourhood because of similar political cultures? Or due to the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the global downturn and Russia's invasion of Ukraine?

Shyam Saran: A bit of both, but I would place more emphasis on a much more challenging external environment which all of us are confronting. The COVID-19 pandemic of two years has not only caused economic disruptions, but also social disruptions. More recently, there's the impact of the crisis in Europe. We are today a globalised, interconnected world, and South Asia is not an exception. And in some cases, several challenges have come together to create a kind of perfect storm. A certain brittleness of the politics of some countries has made the whole effort to cope with these kinds of external challenges much more difficult.

Srinath Raghavan: Political brittleness, along with democratic backsliding, an erosion of democratic norms and procedures are all to blame. There has been an attempt by executives in various neighbouring countries to assert their control over other agencies within the state to sort of devolve power more towards the centre away from federal sort of arrangements, and so on. All this has meant that the style of politics that now seems to prevail across the region is a form of authoritarian populism. And you overlay this change across the region over the past few years with the economic crisis, which is an important one. In fact, I would say that the only parallel that I can think of in recent history is the 1970s. Then we had a similar kind of global economic shock triggered by the oil embargoes which hurt practically every South Asian country, including India. When you put these together – a democratic backsliding, a turn towards authoritarian populism, an economic crisis – what you find is that there are very similar kinds of protests and forms of popular mobilisation taking place across the region. So, there's something to be said about the sort of pan-South Asian quality to what we are seeing now, though the specifics of the political economy of each country differs.

It also seems there has been no collective response to these challenges. Has South Asia failed in collectively responding to so many similar crises?

SS: This is an old challenge – how to fashion a cooperative, collaborative regional response to the common challenges that South Asia faces. The only country which can actually take the lead in order to formulate collaborative responses and mobilise that kind of regionalism is India. But there is an absence of both the awareness and the willingness to play that role here. India appears to have given up on SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation), and focuses more on BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation). We have seen sub-regional cooperation under, say, the BBIN, i.e. the Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal forum, but it is partial. As far as the regional response is concerned, I'm afraid that simply does not exist. Even the limited kind of consultative process that we used to have before is missing. This is a failure. Because if India does not take the lead, it will not happen. We are now working much more at the bilateral level.

SR: There's a wider deficit as well. Compared to, say, two decades ago, what is also striking is the level to which even civil society traction across the region has considerably dipped. There was never a time when you could say that there was a consultation type of civil society interaction which was very strong. But we are at a curious juncture where neither high politics nor civil society interaction seems to be going on. But popular movements and mobilisations do seem to be learning a little bit from each other. For instance, the current protests in Sri Lanka clearly have taken a lesson or two out of what happened in the farmers' protests in India.

The pandemic has caused doubts about the Chinese system, about Chinese abilities. On the other hand, China has started a new South Asian outreach, delivered vaccines when India couldn't. How has India fared in terms of its pushback to China in the neighbourhood?

SS: China has far more resources to deploy than India does. But over the last several months, Chinese preoccupation with its own challenges – in particular, what is happening with this zero-COVID policy, the economic disruptions and political stirrings – is growing. It is also preoccupied with the consequences and anticipated consequences of the Ukraine war... whether it had made a wrong bet in aligning itself much more closely with Russia. So, the attention being given to not just South Asia but also other parts of the world is less. Also, in South Asia itself, there is a certain new wariness about the China connection. It may be unfair to hold China responsible for the economic crisis in Sri Lanka, or to say that China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) or CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) has not been a game changer. But there is a certain wariness about China, and there is a certain opening for India to emerge as a security provider, as an economic support to the countries which are in the middle of the crisis.

> **If there is a deficit of democracy in India and if policies are followed which instigate communalism, it would become difficult to run any kind of foreign policy.**
>
> SHYAM SARAN

SR: China is certainly in a tight spot. Apart from everything else, it seems the Ukraine crisis will mean everything to the west of Russia is unlikely to be part of any kind of BRI connectivity. But that creates an incentive for the Chinese to double down on other parts of the BRI.

And the U.S., given recent outreaches in the Maldives, Nepal, Bangladesh? Do you see the U.S. in South Asia today as a force multiplier for India's efforts or as a rival to both China and India?

SR: It is a good thing that the U.S. is helping some of these smaller South Asian countries get on their feet and be able to resist Chinese blandishments. At the same time, I wouldn't assume the U.S. has too many interests at stake in South Asia. I wouldn't put too much emphasis on what the U.S. is doing. Inasmuch as it dovetails with India's interests and plans in the region, it's something New Delhi will welcome. But a lot has to be done by India. That's where the action should lie.

SS: I would be somewhat more nuanced in that respect. Look at, for example, the effort put in by the U.S. to get this $500 million MCC (Millennium Challenge Corporation) deal through with Nepal. This seems to indicate that certainly on the periphery of China, the U.S. is interested in maintaining and even expanding its spread, and perhaps in consultation or association with India. There is certainly an interest in the maritime part of South Asia, whether it is Sri Lanka or the Maldives. I see an interest on the part of the Pakistan army and the Pakistani elite in keeping the relationship with the U.S., and there is a certain sense of discomfort with too much dependence on China.

There have been concerns about the authoritarian moves in India. Is this trend going to make it that much more difficult for India to be a South Asian leader? Or is India fitting into the South Asian landscape where there are so many other authoritarian leaders?

SS: I don't think it should be our ambition to become a part of that kind of a landscape in South Asia. We have always been able to aspire to a leadership position precisely because we have been a vibrant democracy. We have been able to demonstrate our ability to handle the incredible plurality and diversity in this country [with] vibrant political institutions, which are so important in order to anchor the democratic spirit. Any setback to that is going to make any aspiration for regional and global leadership harder. If there is a deficit of democracy in India and if policies are followed which instigate communalism and a lack of social cohesion in the country, then it would become very difficult to run any kind of foreign policy. It is very important that you should not let domestic political compulsions begin to influence your external policies, which should be based on a much more sober calculation of our national interest.

SR: Whether countries in the region are looking to India for leadership or not depends on the quality of India's growth and economic prosperity. At this point of time, India's economic position clearly is in no shape to enable it to play a serious leadership role in the region. We need to recognise that the ethnic landscape of South Asia does not follow its political boundaries. We may assume that there are some things that we do in India which are purely aimed at the domestic audience, but it will have a knock-on impact in terms of how our neighbours perceive it, how they react to it. If religious majoritarianism under the name of electoral campaigns is given free license in India, you can be almost sure that it will have negative consequences.

What does India need to do to re-imagine its region as a whole?

SR: There is a broader shift in the way that we think, for instance, on climate change, and the fact is that the destiny of South Asia hangs or falls together. Like the question about ethnicity, these are not things that can be segregated by international boundaries. We have to take a broader view of what kinds of severe challenges the region faces beyond political compulsions of the here and now. We need a much deeper engagement beyond government, at the level of civil society, even at very localised levels between India and its neighbours, because only then will you be able to act in ways that are meaningful to the people of the region as a whole.

SS: I do not think that the current approach of marginalising SAARC and giving priority to BIMSTEC is a good idea. I'm not saying BIMSTEC should not be pursued, or BBIN has not achieved some objectives, but these cannot be a substitute for a South Asian regional cooperative forum. The idea should be, how do we work out policies, which then present India as the preferred partner for our region, and India becomes an engine of growth for South Asia.

Shyam Saran *is a former Foreign Secretary. His new book 'How China Sees India and the World' will be published later this month*

Srinath Raghavan *is a historian and teaches at Ashoka University, Sonepat*

Scan the QR code to listen to the full interview online

NOTEBOOK

There's a lot in a name

For reporters, the challenge lies in seeking the source's willingness to be named

ALOK DESHPANDE

Many years ago, I set out to write a story on Mumbai's critical water supply issue, faced especially by slum dwellers. In central Mumbai, when I was surrounded by a group of slum dwellers, most of them women, one of them said, "He [name withdrawn] is a part of this slum's water mafia cartel. All those tankers that come here are fully or partially owned by him. I am sure he bribes officials to ensure we do not get enough water daily. He isn't alone."

Due to lack of water supply, the slum dwellers depend on water tankers, which are run by a cartel of mafias who charge the daily-wage labourers handsome amounts. Those who control the supply also play a major role in that slum's politics. For me, then a cub reporter, the woman's quote about a person affiliated to a political party was a treat. I immediately imagined the headline in the newspaper and wondered how this politician-bureaucracy nexus could be highlighted.

"This is terrible. I assure you that I will publish this. What is your name," I asked. "My name? Why do you want my name," she asked in return. I stopped scribbling in my notebook. "How will anyone believe me? I need to say who is making these allegations. Don't worry. It's just a name," I said. "Don't write about this. Do whatever you want. I am not giving you my name," she said and vanished. I stood there helplessly, wondering how my editor would react if I attributed her quote to a 'source.'

For reporters, interesting and informative quotes are not hard to come by; the challenge lies in seeking the source's willingness to be named. Often on the field, I have heard solid stories and insights from strangers, but when it comes to being named, they tend to walk away leaving me well informed but disappointed.

The reason is mostly fear. Some years ago, I had joined a veteran political leader on his tour to inspect a cyclone-hit coastal part of Maharashtra. When the leader took a lunch break, the villagers came to narrate their ordeal. I spotted a man speaking loudly and explaining how coconut and mango trees were damaged by the cyclone. "The government is not offering anything. A tree takes 10-15 years to become financially beneficial and all that investment has now come to naught," I heard him say.

After a while, we approached him. Assuming that he had suffered big losses, we asked him about his situation. "Me? I don't have a single tree," he said. "But you were giving so much information there," I said. He laughed. "I am a government servant. Don't quote me. It is better you ask the tehsildar about the actual loss," he said and made his way out.

Similarly, when asked whether they have received insurance claims, farmers have often given me plenty of information, but this is almost always accompanied by a request to not quote them. "If my name appears, I will be targeted," they all say. The only exceptions are those associated with farmers organisations.

While we reporters seek stories, for people, providing information can have consequences. Sometime ago, I met an architect for a story on a redevelopment project. He had invited someone who had approached him regarding problems in the project. The person narrated his issues with the proposal. "This plan will benefit the builder, not us," he told me. "Right. We can do a story. How should I attribute you in the story," I asked. "You cannot," he said bluntly. Both the architect and I were surprised. Looking at our faces, he said: "You are a journalist, you won't have any issues. The builder will target me when the story appears." I was indignant. "Then why did you meet me," I asked. "Just so you know what builders are doing to the city," he said.

The answer to this dilemma lies in the story being told. Sometimes, depending on the story, we persuade the person to go on record, sometimes identify them by profession, sometimes leave out their quote and go with what we have, and sometimes even drop the story altogether.

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DATA POINT

Rural inflation peaks

In April 2022, rural inflation accelerated to double digits in at least four big States — West Bengal, Telangana, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh — and was between 9% and 10% in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. It was less than 6% in only four States/UTs — Kerala, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka. The high prices of food and beverages primarily drove rural inflation. Rural food inflation accelerated to over 11% in Telangana and Haryana, and between 10% and 11% in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. Food inflation was the lowest in Kerala and Tamil Nadu: below 5%. Within rural food inflation, the prices of vegetables, oils and fats, and meat and fish increased the most. In Haryana, rural vegetable inflation accelerated to 25% in April 2022. In Telangana, meat and fish inflation accelerated to 20.8%.

By Vignesh Radhakrishnan

1. GENERAL RURAL INFLATION
The table lists the overall rural inflation across select States in April across years. State-wise data were not available in April 2020 and April 2021 owing to the pandemic. The deeper the brown, the higher the rural inflation

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2022
W.B.	2.4	6.6	2.4	8.3	1.6	10.5
Telangana	5.9	7.6	6.0	5.6	-3.0	10.3
Haryana	5.4	4.8	4.7	3.4	0.3	10.3
M.P.	5.3	4.9	0.6	3.9	2.7	10.1
Maharashtra	6.8	6.6	4.3	5.3	0.4	9.8
U.P.	3.7	5.6	1.3	4.0	3.4	9.5
Odisha	8.5	9.6	1.1	4.0	0.2	8.8
Gujarat	5.7	8.0	4.5	3.0	-0.7	8.8
Chhattisgarh	7.7	6.3	0.5	2.7	-0.6	8.6
Rajasthan	7.3	5.2	3.5	2.3	3.1	8.6
India	5.3	6.2	3.0	4.7	1.9	8.4
Punjab	5.0	3.5	5.1	4.9	3.8	8.2
Jharkhand	4.6	8.2	3.4	5.5	0.2	8.1
Bihar	3.6	6.2	1.9	4.7	0.1	7.5
Andhra	6.8	8.8	2.5	4.2	-1.1	7.5
Uttarakhand	3.0	4.1	3.7	3.0	3.9	7.0
Himachal	5.8	3.3	5.5	3.6	-1.7	6.4
Karnataka	7.7	7.7	2.1	2.6	-4.3	5.9
T.N.	5.4	6.1	4.3	5.8	2.9	5.6
Delhi	4.1	4.5	5.1	1.3	10.8	5.4
Kerala	5.3	3.5	6.1	5.9	5.4	4.8

2. RURAL FOOD INFLATION | The table lists the rural inflation in April 2022 for food and beverages and select categories under the term. The deeper the brown, the higher the rural inflation in April 2022

	Pulses	Egg	Milk	Cereals	Spices	Fruits	Meat & fish	Oils & fats	Vegetables	Food & beverages
Telangana	-2.6	-5.3	8.2	6.2	9.5	14.5	20.8	21.1	13.1	11.4
Haryana	2.0	1.4	10.2	8.0	13.3	11.2	15.1	13.5	25.2	11.4
Rajasthan	1.3	1.5	4.4	18.0	10.7	10.6	6.1	17.1	18.2	10.7
Gujarat	1.6	10.5	4.1	11.3	11.3	13.7	19.6	13.8	18.6	10.3
U.P.	1.9	4.7	5.7	11.3	13.6	2.8	12.3	22.1	13.9	10.2
Punjab	5.5	1.5	9.4	7.5	13.9	7.3	5.0	21.9	16.0	10.2
W.B.	6.5	-3.0	5.1	9.3	13.8	6.8	5.4	17.8	19.6	9.9
Maharashtra	1.1	1.4	7.4	6.4	12.0	6.4	8.8	19.9	11.5	9.0
Delhi	-0.5	5.4	4.7	4.8	1.0	0.3	11.5	17.7	22.9	8.6
M.P.	0.1	6.4	2.7	10.0	9.7	12.4	11.5	18.8	8.6	8.5
Chhattisgarh	3.5	-1.5	5.8	4.1	8.5	15.8	11.9	14.0	7.2	8.4
India	2.5	0.7	5.7	6.4	11.2	5.7	7.3	18.4	13.7	8.4
Odisha	1.9	3.6	1.8	1.8	10.0	19.2	4.3	29.3	17.5	8.2
Uttarakhand	5.5	-0.5	9.6	2.0	5.7	-0.8	1.3	21.2	18.0	8.1
Himachal	4.1	8.2	6.2	2.4	8.4	11.4	10.8	17.9	15.5	7.9
Jharkhand	4.2	2.2	5.8	2.0	16.0	-1.0	10.4	22.8	10.8	7.7
Bihar	9.6	0.5	6.7	0.9	13.3	5.4	6.8	24.1	10.7	7.2
Andhra	-3.6	-0.1	6.0	2.8	10.1	2.0	7.2	17.2	10.9	6.9
Karnataka	2.3	1.2	1.6	0.1	8.8	2.7	8.8	20.0	12.5	6.5
T.N.	0.4	-3.0	2.4	1.8	11.2	-0.7	3.7	14.3	5.5	4.6
Kerala	-0.2	-2.6	2.3	7.4	11.0	0.8	0.9	-15.1	10.8	2.3

SOURCE: MOSPI

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 20, 1972

Constitutional amendments proposed

New Delhi, May 19: Apart from the ICS Privileges Abolition Bill which entails the deletion of Article 314 of the Constitution, the Central Government is contemplating some more constitutional amendments in the near future to remove judicial impediments to executive decisions taken in the larger public interest. One of the Bills now under consideration seeks to bypass the recent Supreme Court judgment in regard to the fixation of car prices by inserting a new Chapter IIIB of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. The idea is to take away the powers of the courts to interfere in such matters as fixation of prices and quality controls enforced by executive action. The proposed amendment will empower the Government to safeguard the interests of the consumers in ensuring the supply of industrial products at reasonable prices, while taking suitable steps to regulate the development of the respective industries of the country. The Government is also thinking of amending Entry 56 in the Union List of the Constitution to give power to Parliament to legislate in respect of water disputes involving both riparian and non-riparian States.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 20, 1922

Fire in hospital

Rome, May 18: Fire has destroyed a ward in incurable patients hospital of Holy Ghost. Sixteen bodies have hitherto been recovered.

Rome, May 19: Fire in the hospital of the Holy Ghost which is the oldest and most famous in Rome and which houses eight hundred patients broke out at midnight in the laundry rooms. Fire was not noticed, until the flames burst through into the wards. Electric lights were severed and thus the wards were plunged into darkness. This made it necessary for helpers to use torches and so added to the terror of the inmates. The majority of deaths occurred in the chronic ward where the patients dragged themselves from their beds and gathered together in a corner. Then the floor collapsed and twenty persons were precipitated below followed by burning wood and bedding. After that most of the patients were let down in sheets through the windows owing to the way down the stairs being too precarious. Twenty fire engines succeeded in circumscribing the area of the conflagration which was finally extinguished at ten o'clock in the morning. All victims were between 50 and 70 years of age.

FROM PAGE ONE

'Centre, States have powers to make laws'

The judgment said that though the Centre may have a larger share of power in certain instances to prevent chaos and provide security, the States still wielded power.

"India is a multi-party system. It is possible that the party in power in the Centre may or may not be in power in other States... Even if the States have been given lesser power [in certain situations], they can still resist the mandates of the Union by using different forms of political contestations permitted by the Constitution... It is not imperative that one of the federal units [Centre or the States] must always possess a higher share of power over the other units," the court stated.

"The federal system is a means to accommodate the needs of a frugalistic society... Democracy and federalism are interdependent to each other. Federalism would only be stable in a well functioning democracy. Additionally, the constituent units of a federal polity checks the exercise of powers of one another to prevent one group from exercising dominant power," the court stated.

In the GST Council, the States and the Centre have to function in a "harmonious" manner. The discussions in the GST Council cut across party lines and impacted federalism and democracy as a whole. But harmony, necessary for the well-being of the nation, and its fiscal security could be achieved not just by collaboration but also "contestations" between the Centre and the States.

Contesting discussions between the Centre and the States could also further the cause of federalism and democracy, the Bench reasoned.

After all, the court said, "Indian federalism is a dialogue between cooperative and un-cooperative federalism where the federal units are at liberty to use different means of persuasion, ranging from collaboration to contestation".

The judgment also resolved a prolonged battle the government has been raging against companies to implement its IGST on ocean freight on reverse charge basis.

The issue had gained significance following news reports of fresh tax queries raised on ocean freight even as the dispute was pending in the top court.

RS elections first test for Udaipur Declaration

Congress has decided to keep half of party positions for those under 50

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The upcoming Rajya Sabha elections could be the first test of implementing Congress' Udaipur Declaration in which the party adopted the "50 under 50" formula or keeping half the positions for all those who are under 50 years of age.

The party's choice of nominees could also determine the next move by leaders of G-23, the ginger group that is pushing for internal reforms. G-23 leaders like Ghulam Nabi Azad and Anand Sharma are among the contenders but the party has limited number of berths and will have to make some tough choices.

A senior leader, however, said the 50 under 50 rule will mainly apply to party posts now and from the 2024 Lok Sabha election in candidate selection as well.

The way the numbers stack up, the Congress will get three Rajya Sabha seats from Rajasthan, two from Chhattisgarh and one each from Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana.

Among the existing allies, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) has already left one seat for the Congress from its quota and in States like Bihar and Jharkhand, the Congress will have to depend upon the magnanimity of its allies such as the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) to secure one seat each from these States. The Congress currently has 29 members in the Upper House.

In her meeting with G-23 leaders, Congress president Sonia Gandhi is said to have assured them of adequate representation in the party as well as Parliament but did express her concern about limited opportunities.

Mr. Azad is among 11 members in the Upper House since its inception to have had five terms. Entering the Rajya Sabha in 1990, he has served five continuous terms, barring a three-year gap between April 2006 to February 2009.

Brainstorming meet: Sonia Gandhi with senior party leaders during the Chintan Shivir in Udaipur on May 15. •PTI

Mr. Sharma had four terms beginning from April 1984, but his terms were not contiguous.

It's tricky in States like Haryana where there is a lone seat. Kumari Selja, who recently vacated the post of State unit chief in favour of former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda's camp, expects to be accommodated in the Upper House. But Mr. Hooda, who is a member of the G-23, could chose either Mr. Sharma or Mr. Azad, given his proximity to them.

Head of Communication, Randeep Surjewala, too expects to be moved out of his present profile and is being talked about for a Rajya Sabha berth.

In Chhattisgarh, the State unit has conveyed to the Centre that the seat vacated by OBC MP Chayya Verma should be filled by another OBC. Here too, there is a long list of contenders including the State-in-charge P.L. Punia.

In Rajasthan, the Congress has 108 MLAs and can on their own steam elect two MPs. For the third seat, it needs support of allies. Among those in the race here is Bhanwar Jeetender Singh.

Bharat Jodo Yatra to rope in like-minded forces

It is to cover 3,500 km across 12 States

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

Religious polarisation, Centre-State relations, imposition of language, and privatisation of public sector undertakings will be among the key issues taken up by the '*Bharat Jodo* [unite India] *Yatra*' that will seek to rope in civil society activists who were earlier involved in Congress president Sonia Gandhi-led the National Advisory Council (NAC), a senior leader said on Thursday.

The details of the yatra, which will begin from Kanyakumari on October 2, are still being worked out, but it is clear that the Congress plans to use it as platform to bring together "like-minded political forces" including NGOs, public intellectuals, and faculty members of universities.

From Kanyakumari to Kashmir, the *yatra* is expected to cover 3,500 km across 12 States and would continue for five to six months. All the top leaders, including former party chief Rahul Gandhi, will launch the yatra, which will mostly be covered on foot and in some places on vehicles.

Whether existing or potential allies will be a part of the yatra is yet to be decided. Asked if it was a reflection of Mr. Gandhi's comment that regional parties don't have the ideology to take on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) nationally, the Congress leader said, "We will definitely have pre-poll alliances in the States but being in alliance does not mean we have taken VRS (voluntary retirement from service) in that State."

The party is also moving ahead on setting up a task force to implement the key recommendations of the Udaipur conclave.

Gyanvapi survey report filed by advocate commissioner

1,500 photographs and 10 hours of video were also given

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

The advocate commissioner appointed by a civil judge in Varanasi submitted his report of the videography of the Gyanvapi mosque premises in a local court on Thursday.

While the report concerning one of the most sensitive religious disputes in the country was meant to be confidential, a copy of it leaked, apparently by one of the lawyers of the Hindu plaintiffs, suggested the presence of several Hindu symbols, icons and inscriptions inside the premises of the Gyanvapi mosque and its basement.

Gyanvapi mosque •PTI

The details of the leaked report could not be independently verified. It must be noted that during the course of the videography proceedings, the caretakers of the Gyanvapi mosque registered their objection against the claims made by the Hindu plaintiffs on several occasions and rejected their claims of finding Hindu symbols and remnants of an old temple in the mosque premises.

Apart from the previous claim of the presence of a *Shivling* being found in the ablution tank of the mosque, the report says there were symbols of *trishul*, engravings of lotus flowers, designs of *paan*-shaped leaves, bells, pitchers and signs of swastik in the rooms in the basement of the mosque, said the report.

Along with the document report of the inspection conducted on May 14, 15 and 16, the special advocate commissioner also submitted around 1,500 still photographs and around 10 hours of footage to the court, said a lawyer associated with the case.

Plea to remove Mathura mosque admissible: court

Petition says it is built on Trust's land

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MATHURA (UP)

The Mathura district court on Thursday said a plea seeking to remove the Shahi Idgah Masjid from the complex it shares with the Katra Keshav Dev Temple here is admissible.

The lower court which had earlier dismissed the plea is now bound to hear it.

The plea was originally filed in the court of civil judge senior division on September 25, 2020 by Lucknow-resident Ranjana Agnihotri and six others as the "next friend of *Bhagwan* Sri Krishna Virajman". They claimed that Shahi Idgah Masjid is constructed on a part of 13.37 acre land belonging to the Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi Trust. They had demanded that the mosque be removed and the land returned to the Trust.

After the civil judge, senior division, rejected the suit on September 30, 2020 as non-admissible, the petitioners moved the the court of district judge, seeking a revision of the order.

Advocate Hari Shankar Jain, who is representing the petitioners, said, "The court has said they [the petitioners] have the right to sue."

After the revision was filed in the district court, the arguments between both the sides – Ranjana Agnihotri and her co-petitioners vs the Sunni Central Waqf Board and the Secretary of Shahi Idgah Masjid and two others – on the admissibility of the suit were concluded on May 5, the DGC said.

Sidhu gets one-year RI in road rage case

In appeal, the apex court, four years ago, had set aside the High Court verdict. The top court had held him guilty of the lesser offence of causing voluntary hurt.

Justice Kaul, reading out the judgment, said the court felt, on the basis of the facts placed before it, that it would have to review the judgment only in terms of sentence.

The Review Bench held that it would serve the ends of justice to sentence Mr. Sidhu to a period of one-year rigorous imprisonment in addition to the earlier award of fine of ₹1,000.

Yasin Malik convicted for terror funding

The court-appointed *amicus curiae* Advocate Akhand Pratap Singh had tried to convince him to go to trial. The court went on to say that it was convicting Mr. Malik of offences under Sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 121 (waging or trying to wage war against the Government of India), and 121-A (conspiracy to commit offence under Section 121) of the Indian Penal Code, Sections 13 (punishment for unlawful activities) and 15 (committing terrorist act) of the UAPA read with Section 120-B of the IPC, and Sections 17 (directly or indirectly raising funds for terrorist act), 18 (conspiracy to commit terrorist act), 20 (being member of a terrorist organisation), 38 (offence relating to membership of terrorist organisation), and 39 (offence relating to support to terrorist organisation) of the UAPA.

On Thursday, Mr. Singh said the court had now directed the NIA to file a report on Malik's finances, including his assets. The court directed Mr. Malik to file an income affidavit, which the court will take into consideration before deciding on the compensation he is liable to pay, Mr. Singh told *The Hindu*.

While framing the charges, the court had observed, "The statements of witnesses and documentary evidence has connected almost all the accused with each other and to a common object of secession, to the commonality of means they were to use, their close association to terrorist/ terrorist organisations under the guiding hand and funding of Pakistani establishment".

The NIA chargesheet said that Mr. Malik, along with SAS Geelani and Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, had formed Joint Resistance Leadership and started issuing directions for the masses to hold different forms of protests and disruptive activities.

Supreme Court to hear Gyanvapi case today

In a reply filed in the Court later via online service, the Hindu women, claimed a portion of the temple was demolished on the orders of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb in the late 1600s.

Lawyers on both sides present before the Bench agreed to not take up the suit proceedings in the Varanasi court till Friday. The order to the trial court to desist from proceeding further came after senior advocate Huzefa Ahamadi voiced apprehensions that further orders from the lower court may cause irredeemable harm. "We will keep the hearing for tomorrow, until then don't proceed before the trial court," Justice Chandrachud told advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, who appeared for the Hindu women. The Bench directed the trial court to "strictly abide" by its order.

Advocate Jain, who appeared for the Hindu women, agreed to immediately convey the Supreme Court's order to the local lawyer in Varanasi, who would inform the trial court formally.

In the hearing on May 17, the Supreme Court had directed the District Magistrate of Varanasi to ensure the protection of the area, where a *Shivling* was reported to be found, while ordering that Muslims should not be restricted or impeded from accessing the Gyanvapi mosque to offer *namaaz* or perform religious observances.

Malik's conviction may end separatist politics

Mirwaiz remains under house arrest

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

The conviction and likely imprisonment of banned Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin Malik, 56, in a terror funding case, will not only keep him off-the-scene but also completes the dislodgement of the main faces of the separatist spectrum in the Kashmir Valley.

The past 30 years of Kashmir's separatist politics was dominated by three names: Tehreek-e-Hurriyat chairman Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and JKLF chief Yasin Malik.

Hard-liner Mr. Geelani died in 2021 at the age of 91 and his parent organisation Jamaat-e-Islami was banned in 2019 and is in a complete disarray.

Similarly, the Mirwaiz has been kept out-of-scene too since the BJP-led Central government put an end to J&K's special constitutional position in August 2019. The Mirwaiz remains under house arrest at his residence in Srinagar's Nigeen area and is even barred from his religious obligations as Valley's chief priest.

The Mirwaiz, a moderate face who advocates dialogue on Kashmir, has mostly worked with Mr. Geelani and Mr. Malik to spearhead agitational politics to push for a resolution to the Kashmir problem in the past. With both Mr. Geelani and Mr. Malik out of the scene now, the ability of the Mirwaiz, even if released, to galvanise street support has been enervated completely.

NEWS ANALYSIS

With Mr. Malik, who advocated complete independence of J&K, arrested, his organisation banned and pro-Pakistan Mr. Geelani dead, this brings an end to the 29-year-old politics of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, a joint amalgam set up in 2003, to provide a political face to the armed rebellion in Kashmir.

Former Punjab Congress chief Sunil Jakhar joins BJP

Nadda says he will play an important role in the party

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Days after he quit the Congress party, senior leader and former Punjab Congress president Sunil Jakhar joined the BJP on Thursday in New Delhi, in the presence of party president J.P. Nadda. Mr. Nadda said Mr. Jakhar was an experienced leader and he would play an important role in the BJP.

He said it was not easy to break his relationship with the Congress party with which he had a long association. "It was the issues surrounding national interests that made me quit the party. It was not something personal. My politics has always been about bringing people together, not dividing them. I felt that the party is drifting from its ideology," said Mr. Jakhar.

In an apparent reference to the recently held Assembly elections in the State, Mr. Jakhar said Punjab had always stood for brotherhood, but of late a degree of 'casteism' had sneaked into the Congress party.

Aligning interests: Sunil Jakhar joining the BJP in the presence of J.P. Nadda, in New Delhi. •R. V. MOORTHY

In 2021, ahead of the Assembly election when Amarinder Singh was the Chief Minister, the Congress saw a turmoil within its State unit amid a power tussles among senior leaders. Mr. Jakhar was then seen as the frontrunner for the post of Chief Minister. But eventually, Charanjit Singh Channi's name was announced after removing Amarinder Singh.

Since then, Mr. Jakhar has been upset with the party. In the middle of the Assembly election, Mr. Jakhar, who was then the party's campaign committee head, announced that he was quitting electoral politics as he was unable to work with a few colleagues. He alleged that the high command was surrounded by a certain group of sycophants, who were calling the shots and damaging the party's ethos.

IN BRIEF

LPG price hiked by ₹3.5, crosses ₹1,000 in Delhi

NEW DELHI

Cooking gas LPG price was on Thursday hiked by ₹3.50 per cylinder, the second increase in rate this month following the firming of international energy rates. Non-subsidised LPG now costs ₹1,003 per 14.2-kg cylinder in the national capital, up from ₹999.50 previously, as per a price notification of State-owned fuel retailers. This is the second increase in LPG rate this month. PTI

SC tells to issue Aadhaar cards to sex workers

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the issuance of Aadhaar cards to sex workers based on a proforma certificate issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and observed that every person has a fundamental right to be treated with dignity. A Bench headed by Justice L. Nageswara Rao said there should be no breach of the confidentiality of the sex workers and their identity should not be revealed. PTI

Cong. won't rule Gujarat in next 20 years: Hardik

AHMEDABAD

A day after resigning from the Congress party, Hardik Patel has slammed the Congress and said the party would not return to power in the State for the next 20 years because they had lost the connection with the people and were not interested in working for the people. Their only interest was in playing caste-based politics.

Tripura CM keeps key departments to himself

AGARTALA

Allocating portfolios, Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha kept key departments such as Home and Health to himself, as per a notification. Mr. Saha also kept IT and general administration. Deputy Chief Minister Jishnu Dev Varma would continue to hold Finance, Power, Rural Development, Planning and Coordination, Science, Technology and Environment, as per the notification issued on Wednesday. PTI

Delhi's doorstep ration delivery plan quashed

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday set aside the Delhi government scheme for door-to-door delivery of ration, *Mukhyamantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojana*.

A Bench of Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Jasmeet Singh said the Delhi government could bring another delivery scheme but it cannot use food grain supplied by the Centre for their doorstep delivery scheme.

The Delhi government's *Mukhyamantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojana* was challenged by the Delhi Sarkari Ration Dealers Sangh. The Centre, too, has been opposing the scheme on the ground that the State cannot mitigate the architecture of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) while implementing it.

Earlier, the Delhi government had defended its doorstep delivery of ration scheme saying that it was an optional scheme under which beneficiaries can opt-out anytime and that fair price shops (FPS) will cease to exist on its implementation was "complete misconception".

Delhi government had submitted that it was a misconception that the State is seeking to do away with FPS. They had called the petition as "nothing but proxy litigation set up by somebody else who is not the petitioner".

APPEAL

Name of Patient: **Master Kunal Pamnani**, 10 years. Hospital Name: Mazumdar Shaw Medical Center. Diagnosis: Thalassemia Major. The only curative treatment is bone marrow transplant. We are planning to use one of the parents as donor (Haplo Identical). We are planning TCR Alpha/ Beta and CD 45RA Depletion Therapy for this patient. The estimated cost at this hospital is approximately **Rs. 38,80,000/-**.

We request kind hearted Philanthropists to save him. Kindly send donation by Cheque/D.D/M.O. favouring **Save Poor Lives** and on the back of Cheque write A/c Kunal Pamnani. **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487, State Bank of India, Raja Annamalaipuram Branch and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855. You Can Donate through Google Pay No. **9884697377**, UPI ID: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

Contact: SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, (Admin Division), Flat No. A1, Cesbrce Garden, Ground Floor, Old No. 76, Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai-600028. **Ph: 044-42044165**, Mobile: **9884697377**, E-mail: **savepoorlives@gmail.com** Our website: **www.savepoorlives.com**

'BRICS must press for aid to tackle climate crisis'

Jaishankar speaks about Ukraine crisis

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Union External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday shed light on the commodities shock that the Ukraine crisis has unleashed and sought support for the developing world.

Addressing the BRICS foreign ministers-level meeting, Mr. Jaishankar sought "credible commitment of resources" by the developed economies in mitigating the threat of climate crisis. "Knock-on effects of the Ukraine conflict have led to sharp increases in the costs of energy, food and commodities. This must be mitigated for the sake of the developing world," said Mr. Jaishankar in his speech.

The senior Minister's comment highlighted the disruption that the commodities market is dealing with since the beginning of the war in Ukraine from February 24. The BRICS event was attended by the Foreign Ministers of China, South Africa, Brazil and Russia.

> **We need resilient and reliable supply chains, economic decentralisation**
>
> S. JAISHANKAR
> Minister of External Affairs

India has been faced with a steep increase in the prices of wheat, cotton, cooking gas, metals.

The increase in the commodities prices have been compared to the commodities shock in the 1970s.

The Ukraine crisis has also created trouble for the metal market which in turn is expected to hit the sustainable energy ambition of the world. The war's impact on aluminium, nickel and zinc prices are casting a shadow on the renewable technologies.

He hinted at the requirement of greater western responsibility in the domain of renewables, saying, "Together, we should press for credible commitment of resources by developed nations for climate action and climate justice."

Pangong bridge construction is in 'occupied territory': Centre

Current bridge is the main one; smaller one was to support its construction

SUHASINI HAIDAR
DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

India is closely monitoring the construction of a bridge by China on the Pangong Tso (lake) in eastern Ladakh, which is in "occupied territory", the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday. Sources in the security establishment stated that a broad bridge was currently under construction, connecting both sides of the lake, which would significantly cut down time for the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to move troops and armoured vehicles, while a smaller bridge built early this year was intended to support construction of the main one.

Official sources said the construction of the main bridge had just commenced and the small bridge, of which satellite images had come out in January, was not a "permanent bridge" but a bailey bridge to support the construction of the main one. "The smaller bridge for which construction started in October 2021 and went on till January this year, recommenced in March and was completed by April. It is a support bridge to support the construction of a bigger and broader one. The height of the earlier one is so low that patrol boats can't pass under it," a source in the security establishment said on condition of anonymity.

Still waters: The bridge will help to cut down time significantly for the movement of PLA troops. • AP

"This is a pattern they follow in other places as well. So, it cannot be called a second bridge."

Responding to questions on this at the weekly press interaction, External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said, "We have seen media reports on a new bridge or expansion of old ones. This is a military issue so I can't discuss implications. But India has always believed this area is occupied territory. We continue to monitor such developments." On the current status of construction, the source cited above said that construction material were dumped last month and the work on the main bridge had just commenced. "Latest satellite images show piers, construction material and cranes on the site now."

Stating that it doesn't make sense to have two bridges at the same location, the source noted that the main bridge was much higher and broader that would allow the PLA to move troops as well as armoured vehicles. As reported earlier, the bridge connecting the north and south banks of Pangong Tso would significantly bring down the time for the PLA to move troops and equipment between the two sectors.

Earlier, the PLA had to take a roundabout crossing the Rudok county, but now the bridge would provide a direct axis.

'Those with food security needs can ask for wheat'

Minister says India will continue to help

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

V. Muraleedharan

Addressing a United Nations 'Global Food Security Call to Action' ministerial meeting, Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan said India's restrictions on the export of wheat made allowance for exports to countries that had food security needs. He also reiterated India's call for a diplomatic solution to the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The U.N. meeting was held in-person in New York and chaired by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

"Let me make it clear that these measures allow for export on the basis of approvals to those countries who are required to meet their food security demands," Mr. Muraleedharan said about India's restrictions on wheat exports. "This will be done on the request from the governments concerned," he said, adding that such a policy will ensure that those who are in need the most would be catered to. India has been under pressure from the U.S. and the G7 (Group of Seven advance economies) to rollback its ban on wheat exports.

"To begin with, it is obvious that an early diplomatic solution to the conflict in Ukraine is of paramount importance. India has been consistent in calling for a diplomatic solution through constructive dialogue between the two sides," Mr. Muraleedharan said, adding that India backed the U.N Secretary General's call for exempting the World Food Programme purchases of food from export restrictions. Early on in his speech the Minister said that commodity and energy prices had spiralled, and supply chains were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and "ongoing conflicts, including Ukraine".

"The food security challenges emanating inter alia from Ukraine conflict require us to respond creatively, "he said. The Minister said countries like India, which had adequate food stocks, were seeing "unjustified" increases in food prices, which he attributed to hoarding and speculation. "We cannot allow this to pass unchallenged," he said. The Minister said that principles of equity, affordability and accessibility of food grains were important and noted that these principles were not adhered to in the case of COVID-19 vaccines.

Making references to the government's stated policy of 'Neighbourhood First' and *Vasudhaiva kutumbakam* or universal family, Mr. Muraleedharan said India was providing Afghanistan with 50,000 tonnes of wheat (this process began in March this year), and that the country was also donating rice or wheat to Sri Lanka and Myanmar.

"India will play its dual role in advancing global food security, and it will do so in a manner in which it will uphold equity, display compassion, and promote social justice," he said.

Modi to fly to Japan for Quad Summit next week

PM will hold talks with Biden, other world leaders

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to Tokyo for his second in-person Quad Summit on Tuesday, and hold bilateral talks with U.S. President Joseph Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Australian PM Scott Morrison, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced.

During his visit to Japan, which begins on May 23, Mr. Modi will address a business summit and meet with members of the Indian community in Tokyo, while the Quad summit and bilateral meetings will be held on May 24.

"The forthcoming Quad Summit provides an opportunity for the Leaders to exchange views about developments in the Indo-Pacific region and contemporary global issues of mutual interest," the MEA said in a statement.

Narendra Modi

The Quad Summit is expected to take stock of the Russian war in Ukraine, and the impact of three months of Western sanctions. India is the only the member of the Quad that has not joined sanctions against Russia, nor has it directly criticised Russia for its invasion of Ukraine.

India has also increased its intake of Russian oil, buying more oil in March and April, an estimated 40 million barrels more than it had in all of 2021, while the other Quad members, members of the G-7 and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) have pledged to end their imports from Russia in time.

More recently, the issue of India's ban on wheat exports have been taken up by the U.S. and the G-7, which has appealed to India to reconsider.

"The Leaders will review progress of Quad initiatives and Working Groups, identify new areas of cooperation and provide strategic guidance and vision for future collaboration," said the statement.

The Quad summit in Tokyo, scheduled next week, will also review progress on the working groups formed a year ago on vaccine distribution, critical technologies, cybersecurity, space, climate change, and other issues.

The MEA spokesperson said that while it was true that the project has not yet taken off, other vaccines have been distributed by Quad countries individually so far, and it remains to be seen whether the upcoming Quad summit will see a "review" of the vaccine initiative given the logjam.

The Ministry of External Affairs also said that during bilateral talks with Mr. Biden, Mr. Modi is expected to discuss the India-U.S. Strategic Partnership.

Nithari murder case: Court awards death sentence to accused

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GHAZIABAD

A special Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) court here has awarded a death sentence to the prime accused in the Nithari murders, Surinder Koli, for raping and murdering a woman.

Judge Rakesh Tripathi awarded seven years imprisonment to Koli's employer – businessman Moninder Singh Pandher – in the case linked to the murders. The court imposed a fine of ₹62,000 on Koli and ₹4,000 on Pandher. Special CBI public prosecutor Darshan Lal said the agency had produced 83 witnesses before the court and their statements had been recorded. Koli has been held guilty of killing, raping, hatching a conspiracy and destroying proof of crime while Pandher was accused of immoral trafficking.

Thakur says India will be top content producer in 5 years

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur on Thursday said in five years, India would be among the leading quality content producing nations across the globe in the field of media and entertainment.

Addressing the India Forum at Palais des Festivals in Cannes, the Minister said that over the years, "Festival de Cannes" had played a significant role in strengthening Indo-French relations. "Today the recognition of our cinematic excellence the world over is set to manifest the country into the 'content hub' of the world," he said.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
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Rsc.No.PR4/13942/Adv.No.60/PRO/2022, Dated:19-05-2022 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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RE-TENDER OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR APPOINTMENT OF ARCHITECT

EOI No.: IIA/BNG/Civil/Mysuru Planetarium/2022-23/EOI No.01 dated 18.05.2022

Name of the Work: **"Providing comprehensive Architectural, Structural and other Engineering Design Consultancy, Project management and Construction supervision services for setting up of the Planetarium along with necessary infrastructure facilities at Mysuru, Karnataka State".** IIA invites sealed Expression of Interest (EOI) for appointment of Architect for the above work. Complete documents with all necessary details can be downloaded from Institute's website: **www.iiap.res.in/tenders.htm.**
Last date for receipt of bid is on or before 08.06.2022 at 15:00 hours.
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION
Storm Water Drain Department

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The Institute invites applications from eligible candidates for the following Regular posts to be filled on Direct Recruitment basis.

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4.	LDC/Typist	03	Level-02	UR-01 OBC-01 SC-01
5.	Hindi Typist	01	Level-02	UR
MSEC NOIDA (REGULAR)				
6.	Principal	01	Level-12	UR-OH
CRC DAVANGERE (REGULAR)				
7.	Lecturer(Occupational Therapy)	01	Level-10	OBC
8.	Administrative Officer	01	Level-10	UR
9.	Prosthetist &Orthotist	01	Level-07	UR
10.	Orientation & Mobility Instructor	01	Level-06	UR

Applications are also invited from eligible candidates for the following posts to be filled on Contractual basis at Composite Regional Centres, Nellore & Rajnandgaon under the administrative control of this Institute.

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Post	Consolidated salary per month
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1.	Assistant Professor (Medical PMR)	01	Rs. 70,000
2.	Special Educator/Orientation & Mobility Instructor	01	Rs. 40,000

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KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION e-TENDER

ABRIDGED NIT

The Ch. Mpl. Engineer (SWM), KMC invites Request for Proposal (RfP) for the work mentioned below (Submission Online) :-
Tender Reference No.: MM/SWM/RFP/II/21-22
Scheme/Work(s) : **"Solid Waste Management of Milan Mela"**; The document for Request for Proposal (RfP) and other details are available on and from **21.05.2022 from 04:00 p.m.** from the website **https://wbtenders.gov.in** and **www.kmcgov.in**; Last Date and Time of Bid submission : **14.06.2022 up to 03:00 p.m.**
148/22-23

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
KMML
Sankaramangalam, Chavara, Kollam-691 583, Kerala, India
Ph: +91 476 2651215 to 2561217
Fax: 91 0476 2680101, 2686721 E-mail: contact@kmml.com, URL www.kmml.com
Competitive Tenders are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal. **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com**

S.No	Tender ID	Items
1.	2022_KMML_489503_1	For the supply of PTFE Lined Plug valves

Chavara 19.05.2022 sd/- DGM (Mtls) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd

2.	2022_KMML_490316_1	Supply of DC- supply unit for cell for Magnesium Recycling Plant (MRP) at the Titanium Sponge Plant(TSP),KMML

Chavara 19.05.2022 sd/- HOD (TSP) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd
Our products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium, Titanium Sponge, Rutile, Zircon & Silimanite

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण ग्रुप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
तिरुवनंतपुरम/THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 22 / (फोन नं./Ph. No. 0471-2564568 / 2564545)

ई-निविदा की अवधि बढ़ाना / EXTENSION OF E-TENDER

कार्य का शीर्षक / Title of work : वीआरसी, वीएसएससी के यूपीजीली भवन में 884 कि.ग्रा. क्षमता (13 यात्री) के 2 लिफ्टों का प्रतिस्थापन । Replacement of 2 Nos of 884 kgs (13 passenger) capacity lift in Multi Storied Building at VRC, VSSC.
ई-निविदा सूचना सं. / E-Tender Notice No. : NIT No. VSSC/CMG/M01/03/2022-2023 Dated 27.04.2022

निविदा दस्तावेज डाउनलोड करने हेतु अंतिम तिथि Last date for download the tender document	दिनांक **29.05.2022** तक बढ़ाया गया/Extended upto **29.05.2022**
निविदाएं प्राप्त करने हेतु नियत तिथि / Due date for receipt of tenders	दिनांक **05.06.2022** तक बढ़ाया गया/Extended upto **05.06.2022**
निविदा खोलने की तिथि / Opening of tenders	दिनांक **08.06.2022** तक बढ़ाया गया/Extended upto **08.06.2022**

योग्यता मानदंड तथा अन्य ब्यौरों को पाने के लिए इच्छुक निविदाकार ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए विस्तृत सूचना (ई-एनआईटी) का अवलोकन करें, जिसे www.tenderwizard.in/ISRO से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice inviting E-Tender (E-NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website www.tenderwizard.in/ISRO.
Sd/- समूह निदेशक, सीएमजी, वीएसएससी / Group Director, CMG, VSSC

By E_Mail / e-Despatch- E_Mail ID: seneobaripada@gmail.com ; Ph. No. 06792-261343/261344,Gangraj, Baripada
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA
"e" Procurement Notice for Building Work
Identification No.- Online Tender-Building N.C.B. No.225 for 2022-23
Letter No. 1659 / Date : 18.05.2022 //

1. Name of the Work : **Building works**
2. Total No. of Work : **01 Nos. (One)**
3. Estimated Cost : **Rs.477.32 Lakh** (approximately).
4. Eligible Class of Contractor : **'A' & 'Special' Class**
5. Period of Completion : **18 Calendar months**
6. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E.R.W.Circle,Baripada. Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Baripada.	Building On-line N.C.B. No.225	Dt.23.05.2022 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt.06.06.2022 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.04.06.2022 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.07.06.2022 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

- Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in
- Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e_tender website only.

Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Baripada.
O-239: OIPR-25181/11/0009/2223

STATE INDUSTRIES PROMOTION CORPORATION OF TAMIL NADU LIMITED
19-A, RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHY ROAD, EGMORE, CHENNAI-600 008.
CIN U74999TN1971SGC005967
Tender Notice
Tender Notice NIT.No. 09/CWT.No.09/2022-23 Dt.19.05.2022

For and on behalf of State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited, sealed tenders are invited under **"Two Cover System"** for the following work from **Class–I** State level Civil Contractors registered in PWD/Highways/Any Department of Government of Tamil Nadu, Central Government Department, Tamil Nadu State Government undertaking having experience in similar nature of works. Tenders will be received upto **3.00 PM** on **28.06.2022** and the same will be opened on the same day at **3.30 PM.**

Name of Work	Approx. value of work	EMD Rs.
Formation of six lane approach road (60m wide) from NH-44 to Phase–IV (Shoolagiri) at SIPCOT Industrial Park, Hosur	**Rs.1185.00** Lakhs (Inclusive of GST @18%)	6,02,500/- *

* In the form of Demand Draft drawn in favour of SIPCOT Ltd., payable at Chennai.(In the Tenderer's Name/Firm only)

The tender Schedule can be Downloaded at free of cost from the website **www.tenders.tn.gov.in**
DIPR/2398/TENDER/2022 MANAGING DIRECTOR

Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC)
has decided to conduct online E-auction for the sale of TKM 9 variety Paddy and Rice through MSTC Portal on 06/06/2022.

E-Auction of TKM 9 variety Paddy and Rice

RC NO: MP1/20874/21 **TKM 9 Paddy = 39,968.541 MTS** Date: 19.05.2022
TKM 9 Rice = 9653.734 MTS
(Available at Thanjavur, Thiruvarur and Nagapattinam Region)

Interested Buyer Please visit MSTC website for Regn. & Participation, https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome or Refer TNCSC catalogue on www.mstcindia.co.in portal or Contact TNCSC office No: 044 2642 6773 / 94458 61671 or MSTC HELP LINE: 94990 54101 TO 104.
DIPR/2399/Tender/2022 MANAGING DIRECTOR
"கோளுரை வடக்கு வகுத்திரம் அகட்டுதோம், எழுகை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, KENDRAPARA
At : Ichhapur, Post : Shree Baladevjew, Email : eerwsskendrapara@gmail.com
Identification No.RWS/103/2021-2022
Letter No. 3681 / Dated 13/05/22
6th Corrigendum

This corrigendum has been made for the NIT-103 invited online vide this office letter No. 1518 / Dated. 04.03.2022 with date for selling, closing, clarification and opening which was on dt.18.05.2022 (selling date), 03.06.2022 (closing date), 20.05.2022 (clarification date) 04.06.2022 (opening date) **as per 5th corrigendum has been amended and to be read as 02.06.2022, 20.06.2022, 04.06.2022 and 21.06.2022 respectively as follows.**

Sl No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Apprx.) Rs. In Lakhs	EMD to be deposited online	Class of Bidder	Cost of Tender Paper	Period of completion
1.	Execution of 40 LPCD Retrofitting RPWS Scheme to **Parakula and Jamapada,** on clubbed up mode under **Marshaghai** Block in the District of Kendrapara. **(JJM Funds)**	**Rs. 320.47**	Nil	"A" and "Special"	Rs. 10000	360 days
2	Execution of 40 LPCD Retrofitting RPWS Scheme to **Kharianta of Mahakalapada and Pakahyot of Marshaghai,** on clubbed up mode under **Marshaghai** Block in the District of Kendrapara. **(JJM Funds)**	**Rs. 268.72**	Nil	"B" & "A"	Rs. 10000	330 days

(Er.B.K.Nayak)
Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Kendrapara
O-258: OIPR-25504/11/0035/2223

IN BRIEF

SC grants bail to Azam Khan under Article 142

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday used its extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to grant interim bail to Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan, who argued that the Uttar Pradesh government was relentlessly registering cases to keep him in prison.

Four militants behind wine shop blast arrested

SRINAGAR

Five persons, including four militants and one associate, were arrested for their alleged involvement in the grenade blast inside a wine shop on May 17 in north Kashmir's Baramulla, which killed one employee and four others were injured, the Jammu and Kashmir police said on Thursday.

'Made in India' skin test for TB to be launched

NEW DELHI

India will introduce a newly approved "made in India" TB infection skin test called 'c-TB', said Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday, adding that this cost-effective tool will be of immense benefit to other high burden countries as well. He added that a new initiative, "Adopt people with TB" will be launched this year.

CBI books BCAS official on corruption charge

NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against the in-charge of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security's (BCAS) Entry Pass section at the Mumbai airport and others for allegedly receiving bribes from private entities to process their applications for entry passes and security clearance.

Supreme Court to hear pleas challenging EWS quota in July

Validity of ₹8 lakh criterion as the annual income limit had come into question

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said that it will begin hearing in July this year, a series of petitions challenging the criteria fixed by the Central government to identify Economically Weaker Sections [EWS] of the society to grant 10% reservation in education and jobs.

A Bench led by Justice D. Y. Chandrachud has primarily raised the question on the government's decision to fix ₹8 lakh as the annual income limit to identify the EWS category. The validity of the ₹8 lakh criterion had come into question while seeking EWS reservation in National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) admissions.

Senior advocate Arvind Datar, for the petitioners, submitted that the NEET-PG (post graduate) examination for the 2022-23 batches was due soon. "We will keep it as soon as the court reopens. We will give a date," Justice Chandrachud said. On January 17, 2019, the government had released an official memorandum [OM] informing that families earning a gross annual income below ₹8 lakh would be identified as EWS for the benefit of reservation.

The OM was issued just three days before the Constitution (One Hundred and Third) Amendment Act, which introduced the EWS quota, came into force on January 14, 2019. The court had even wondered whether the ₹8 lakh threshold was "largely based" on the criterion to identify the creamy layer in the Other Backward Class quota. An expert committee headed by former Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey, formed by the government to review the ₹8 lakh limit, had in its report maintained that the financial threshold was not a "mechanical adoption" of the OBC creamy layer cut-off.

"The review committee seems to be just trying to justify the ₹8 lakh limit post facto. They have done their best to justify the ₹8 lakh limit," Justice Chandrachud had remarked.

The Centre had defended the annual income limit. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, for the government, had asked in court whether anybody with "common sense" would think ₹8 lakh was an "irrational" income limit for determining EWS.

Child rights groups oppose raising marriage age of women

They have asked the panel to improve access to education

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

An umbrella body of child rights organisations, set up by Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi, which appeared before the parliamentary panel studying the Bill on raising the age of marriage for women to 21 from 18 years, has opposed the move and emphasised the need to improve access to education to delay marriages.

The India Child Protection Forum (ICPF) comprising nearly 70 civil society organisations, represented by its convener Amod K. Kanth and Ravi Kant from the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation, made its submissions before the Parliamentary Standing Committee, headed by BJP MP Vinay Sahasrabuddhe on Monday. The panel is expected to submit its report next month.

Last year, Parliament had sent the Prevention of Child Marriage Bill, 2021 to the Standing Committee after the Opposition parties expressed concerns over raising the age of marriage for women and demanded greater scrutiny of the proposed law.

Crime data

The ICPF told the panel that the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2005 had failed to stop child marriages, which was evident through the National Crime Records Bureau data which show that only 2,530 cases were registered under the Act between 2016 and 2020.

It has sought that the government invest in improving access to education to check school dropouts and demanded that girls be provided free education till the age of 18. The ICPF has also underlined that raising the age of marriage for women to 21 will result in criminalising young adults entering into wedlock, especially those who marry against the consent of their parents.

At least five women's organisations have also sent a joint memorandum to the panel, seeking that the age of marriage for both men and women should be fixed at 18.

Vacation Bench open to hearing hate speech cases

Court will close for summer vacation

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday gave petitioners liberty to approach its Vacation Bench during the summer holidays for urgent relief in case hate speeches continue to be made across the country while local authorities fail to act.

The court's last regular working day is May 20 before it closes for summer vacations till July.

"Innocent people get hurt in such communal frenzy... We should be entitled to approach the Vacation Bench for appropriate remedy," senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing Qurban Ali, a journalist, and Anjana Prakash, a former High Court judge, urged the court.

A Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar said appropriate guidelines issued for the police and civil authorities to counter hate speeches were already in existence. Mr. Sibal submitted, "These guidelines are not being followed by them... Events are being held across where hate speeches are made."

Senior advocate Meenakshi Arora stated that in some cases the same person spoke at multiple events. "These persons have the audacity to go to different events to make hate speeches," she said.

ASI bars visit to Aurangzeb's tomb

Tomb shut for five days after MNS spokesperson called for its destruction

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

After threats by the Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) to destroy Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb's tomb in Maharashtra's Aurangabad district, the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) on Thursday shut the tomb for the next five days to visitors, even as the Aurangabad police increased security around the structure.

A view of Aurangzeb's tomb in Aurangabad. • FILE PHOTO

The move comes after MNS spokesperson Gajanan Kale had earlier in a tweet questioned the "need for the existence of the tomb in Khuldabad in Chhatrapati Shivaji's Maharashtra," calling for it to be destroyed.

In a video post, Mr. Kale, who is the MNS's Navi Mumbai city president, had taken aim at the Uddhav Thackeray-led tripartite 'Maha Vikas Aghadi' government (of the Shiv Sena, the NCP and the Congress) while stating that late Sena founder Bal Thackeray himself had questioned the need for the structure's existence.

"On December 18, 2000, the respected Bal Thackeray, in an interview given to the [Sena's mouthpiece] *Saamana*, had said that Aurangzeb's tomb in Sambhajinagar [as Aurangabad is called by the Sena and the MNS] ought to be destroyed and never rebuilt. Will this Thackeray government at least listen to Bal Thackeray?" asked Mr. Kale.

Soon after his provocative remarks, the Aurangabad rural police increased security at the ASI-protected monument site to preclude any untoward incident.

However, at the request of the mosque committee, a decision was eventually taken by the ASI authorities to close the tomb for a few days.

CUET for PG admissions too, says UGC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The University Grants Commission (UGC) announced on Thursday that post-graduate admissions for the upcoming admission session will be conducted through a Common University Entrance Test

"Common University Entrance Test for post-graduate admissions to be held in the last week of July, 2022. Application form submission will start today on NTA (National Testing Agency) website. Programme details will be available on websites of participating Central Universities & other Universities," UGC Chairman M Jagadesh Kumar said.

Uber drivers to now see drop location information upfront

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

More assistance is being offered to drivers.

Amid increasing consumer complaints about cab cancellations or not wanting to switch on the AC on ride-hailing platforms, Uber on Thursday announced a slew of measures, including fare hikes, showing trip destinations and mode of payment upfront to drivers and extra earnings for longer drives, to combat the problem.

"The Uber experience hasn't been as magical as we would like lately – for drivers and riders alike...So, over the last few months we have been in a hyper listening mode, trying to understand the issues and the root causes. We have also been doing a lot of testing and experimentation," Nitish Bhushan, Head of Central Operations, Uber India and South Asia, told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Bhushan stated that cancellations have been a problem since the mid of last year and the company had been testing new features on the app to help resolve these issues. "We are rolling out four key big features for our driver partners, which will hopefully make it much easier for them and that can then translate that into better experience for the riders."

To mitigate the impact of the hike on fuel prices, over the past few weeks, the company had raised fares in the range of 10-15% across cities to boost driver earnings a trip. Uber would now show trip destinations to drivers before they decide to accept the ride. Further, given drivers' demand for more flexibility around payments, the company would now show drivers the mode of payment (cash or online).

Bhaskararaman in CBI custody for four days

The agency said he demanded bribe

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A Special CBI court in Delhi on Thursday remanded S. Bhaskararaman, an alleged associate of Sivaganga MP Karti Chidambaram, to four days in the agency's custody in a case related to bribes for visa scam, allegedly perpetrated in 2011.

The CBI had sought Bhaskararaman's custody for 14 days citing that he was Karti Chidambaram's Chartered Accountant and had information relevant to the case, about which he needed to be interrogated.

The agency has said that a Mansa-based company M/s Talwandi Sabo Private Limited was engaged in setting up a 1980 MW thermal power plant at Mansa, Punjab at the time. The company had outsourced the work to Chinese company. The Chinese firm wanted to bring in more Chinese nationals to finish the work on it, for which project visas were required over and above the ceiling imposed by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Mansa-based company had thus made a request to allow this in July 2011, which was approved within a month, the CBI said, alleging that Bhaskararaman had discussed the matter with the then Home Minister and demanded ₹50 lakh illegal gratification for ensuring the approval.

CBI files FIR against Bengal Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday registered an FIR against West Bengal Minister of State for Education Paresh Chandra Adhikary.

The Calcutta High Court on May 17 directed the "CBI of Eastern Region to register a case and start the enquiry immediately" in connection with the appointment of the Minister's daughter as a teacher in the State-run school. Charges have been pressed against him and his daughter under Section 420 (cheating), 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the IPC and Section 7 of The Prevention of Corruption Act 1988.

Nagaland set to curb illegal tax collection

The State shuts all police check gates

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Nagaland Government ordered on Thursday that all "police check gates", except those at the inter-State boundaries, shall be shut to "curb illegal collection of money from the vehicles on roads".

Several armed groups, including the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah) [NSCN-IM], one of the main groups with which the Government of India is engaged in peace talks, collect taxes from traders and vehicles. Last year, the Confederation of Nagaland Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CNCCI) had asked the government to clarify if it feels the collection of taxes by armed groups is illegal. It said that the business community has had to pay taxes to at least 10 armed groups and "end up paying 12-13 times taxes while their counterparts pay only the GST".

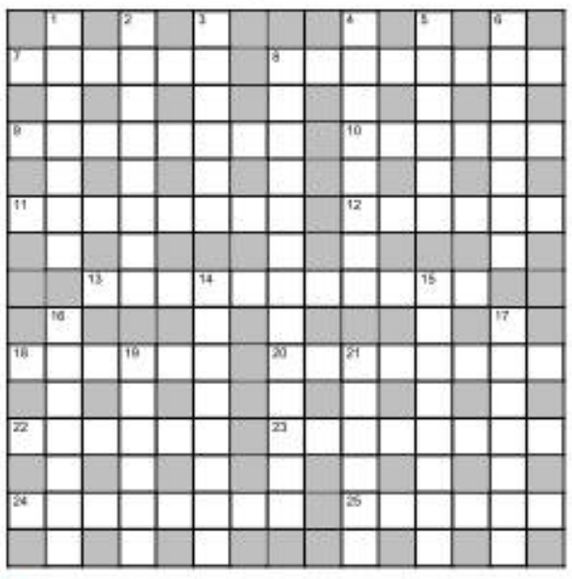
The order comes a day after Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio met Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi, where he demanded the early conclusion of Naga peace talks. Nagaland Deputy Chief Minister Y. Patton, who is with the Bharatiya Janata Party, has in recent meetings demanded President's Rule for the State if the Naga peace agreement is not signed soon.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD + 13561

(set by Vidwan)

Display keystrokes of genius. Type your answers in our online grids. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

7 Vegetable roll – one pence (6)

8 Battle of Athens partly won by Roman manoeuvring (8)

9 Groovy street talk, short and powerful, having revolutionary strain (8)

10 I am back in Godfather territory (6)

11 Yes! No gym is free of anti-women attitude (8)

12 Steal the Spanish money (6)

13 Spooner says chap sticks wrappers! (11)

18 Heard Knight swear at Piccadilly for instance (6)

20 Meeting of a music arranger and top new model (8)

22 One who changes habit, dress, clothing on set regularly (6)

23 Natives pull the plug on electronic audio equipment (8)

24 To hum is to mock! (8)

25 Oversensitive youth worried about core of democracy (6)

DOWN

1 USA's pathetic attempt, not the last, to form a nation (7)

2 Treatment of 'I don't eat' condition (8)

3 Inconsistent, bit soft and slightly crazy (6)

4 A Gridman's cryptic instrument (8)

5 A time mantra starts to impact consciousness at extremely micro-level (6)

6 Seen as inverse of 1/10 + 100 (7)

8 A mega hydra shaped poor province (6,7)

14 Glowing with desire and reddish, liberated upper-class female (8)

15 Tribute to mother protecting child's heart, supporting, making one rise over smallest of challenges (8)

16 Preservative used in grave (7)

17 Dumpling made without basically any coaching (7)

19 Back in same nice picture gallery (6)

21 Queen of Jews usually deified in the Hebrew sources (6)

SUDOKU

				4	7	1		5
		6	1				7	9
			9				6	
2					8		3	
6	5						1	8
	8		4					2
	3				4			
9	6				1	5		
1		8	3	6				

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13560

	B	D	A	N	M	P	W	
H	U	G	E	D	R	O	V	E
	S	T	R	W	R	R	A	
D	Y	N	A	M	O	H	A	S
		I	I	E	A	A		
S	P	I	N	S	T	E	R	
	I	E		E	D		O	
A	L	L	E	R	G	Y	P	S
	A		E	O		H	C	
A	F	G	H	A	N	S	U	T
		A	D	T	H	E		
K	I	N	S	H	A	S	A	
	R	T	R	I	M	F	T	
T	O	M	E	M	I	N	C	E
	N	N	E	S	S	L	A	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	8	1	2	3	7	5	6	9
2	9	5	6	8	1	7	4	3
6	7	3	5	9	4	8	2	1
9	1	2	8	7	5	6	3	4
8	3	4	1	6	2	9	7	5
7	5	6	3	4	9	1	8	2
5	4	9	7	2	8	3	1	6
3	2	8	9	1	6	4	5	7
1	6	7	4	5	3	2	9	8

FAITH

Vedanta Desika's wealth

Vedanta Desika's indifference to wealth is evident in his Vairagya Panchaka. He was not tempted by its attractions. He saw no need to accumulate wealth, or to be attached to it. We think that without wealth, we cannot meet even our basic needs. But Desika shows us that these needs can be met easily, said V.K.S.N. Raghavan in a discourse on Vairagya Panchaka.

Can we not eat the grains scattered in a field to satisfy our hunger? Can we not just take a fistful of water from a pond to quench our thirst? Can a small piece of cloth not serve as loincloth? When our daily needs can be met thus, what is the need to praise kings to get gifts from them? To do so is a miserable state of affairs. There is a fire in the stomach called *jataragni*. This fire causes hunger. Desika does not care if this fire of hunger were to burn intensely. That is no reason to praise kings for their rewards. He says his speech has the fragrance of a flower, and will not be used to praise mortals. It is intended only to sing the praises of Lord Narayana. The practice of waiting on the pyol of a rich man's house, hoping to gain material benefits from him, is disagreeable.

Desika has a huge wealth, namely, the One who gave the world the Bhagavad Gita. When Lord Krishna is with Desika, will he desire any other wealth? Krishna, the One who lifted the Govardhana hill to protect the Gopas, Gopikas and their cattle, is the Lord who is permanently in Desika's heart. All wealth is perishable. But the Supreme One worshipped by Desika is an imperishable wealth. And so, Desika shuns the pursuit of wealth. In the fifth verse of Vairagya Panchaka, Desika uses the word '*dhanam*', meaning wealth, 11 times, to show that true wealth is the Lord.

'Ready to discuss Turkey's concerns'

Finnish President says he takes 'terrorism seriously', Swedish PM willing to 'sort out issues' with Ankara

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

Finnish President Sauli Niinistö said his country was open to discussing Turkey's concerns on its application to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), as U.S. President Joe Biden hosted Mr. Niinistö and Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson at the White House following their countries' application to join the western military alliance. The two countries formally applied to join the organisation in Brussels on Wednesday, in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine that began on February 24.

"As NATO allies, we will commit to Turkey's security, just as Turkey will commit to our security. We take terrorism seriously," Mr. Niinistö said, during remarks at a gathering with Mr. Biden and Ms. Andersson in the White House Rose Garden.

"We are open to discussing all the concerns Turkey may have concerning our membership in an open and constructive manner. These discussions have already taken place and they will continue in the next days," he added.

Expanding tribe: U.S. President Joe Biden, centre, Sweden's Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson, right, and Finland's President Sauli Niinistö at the White House on Thursday. • AFP

Ms. Andresson said that her country was in discussion with all NATO members – including Turkey – to "sort out any issues".

Turkey has objected to Finland and Sweden's application to NATO, with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Thursday accusing the countries of harbouring terrorists of the Kurdistan's Workers Party (PKK). Turkey has also said that the countries host followers of Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, an Erdogan opponent who is based in the U.S.

"The decision [to apply for NATO membership] was made with an overwhelming parliamentary majority and it also enjoys huge, strong popular support," Mr. Niinistö said.

"After 200 years of military non alignment, Sweden has chosen a new path," Ms. Andersson said.

"Russia's full scale aggression against a sovereign and democratic neighbour – that was a watershed moment for Sweden," she said, adding that her government had decided that the safety of the Swedish people would be best protected through NATO.

Mr. Biden called the day "momentous" and said the U.S. offered its "strong support" for the countries' accession to NATO, adding that it was the sovereign right of every country to make its own security decisions - a reference to Russia's long-standing objections to the expansion of NATO, although on Monday Russian President Vladimir Putin said there was no "immediate threat" to Russia from these two countries joining the alliance.

"No members joining NATO is not a threat to any nation," Mr. Biden said on Monday. The President said he was submitting a report on NATO accession for the two countries to the U.S. Congress, with the aim of getting the Congress's approval. All 30 members of NATO have to approve Sweden and Finland's accession for it to take effect.

U.S. Congress clears $40 bn for Ukraine

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

U.S. Congress approved a $40 billion aid package for Ukraine on Thursday, the latest tranche of U.S. assistance under President Joe Biden's promise of unwavering support for Kyiv in its fight against Russia's invasion.

The vote was an unusually bipartisan move for harshly divided Washington.

"Aid for Ukraine goes far beyond charity," Republican Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said.

"The future of American security and core strategic interests will be shaped by the outcome of this fight," Mr. McConnell said ahead of the vote.

The bundle includes $6 billion earmarked for Ukraine to boost its armored vehicle inventory and air defense system.

Nearly $9 billion is set aside to help with Ukrainian "continuity of government," among other items, including humanitarian aid.

Congress already approved almost $14 billion for Ukraine in mid-March, only weeks after Russia's invasion.

'China failed to change Tibetan people's minds'

Dalai Lama meets U.S. envoy on Tibet

ANANTH KRISHNAN
HONG KONG

China's Communist Party has failed in its efforts to change the minds of Tibetan people, the Dalai Lama said on Thursday.

Meeting with the visiting U.S. Special Coordinator on Tibet Uzra Zeya – on a rare high-level visit from Washington to Dharamsala – the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader praised the democratic freedoms in the U.S. and in India.

China, he said, had "completely failed" in trying to change Tibetans' minds. "Meanwhile, China's thinking [is] also changing rapidly, Socialism and Marxism have gone," he said.

The meeting discussed preservation of Tibetan culture and its importance for the world, said Penpa Tsering, Sikyong of the Central Tibetan Administration in Dharamsala.

China has slammed the visit as "interference" in its internal affairs.

"The 14th Dalai Lama is a political exile disguised as a religious person and engages in anti-China separatist activities and attempts to split Tibet from China," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said in Beijing.

Dalai Lama

"Tibet is a part of China and Tibetan religious affairs are China's internal affairs. The U.S. appointment of a Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues is an interference in China's internal affairs. China is firmly opposed to it and has never recognised it."

He said the U.S. "should take earnest actions to abide by its commitment that Tibet is a part of China and not supporting Tibetan independence." "It should not provide any support for separatist activities by the anti-China Dalai clique," he said, adding that "China will continue to take measures defend its sovereignty, territorial integrity and development interests."

Mediating between TTP and Pakistan, say Taliban

Pak. terror group puts forth demands

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PESHAWAR

Afghanistan's Taliban government has confirmed that it is playing the role of a mediator in the ongoing talks between the Pakistan government and Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan during which the dreaded militant group has demanded the release of 30 key commanders detained by Pakistani authorities.

Spokesman for Islamic state of Afghanistan Zabihullah Mujahid confirmed that the Afghan government was playing the role of mediator between Islamabad and the Pakistani Taliban.

"Talks were held in Kabul between the government of Pakistan and the Taliban Movement of Pakistan with the mediation of the Islamic Emirate," the spokesman tweeted on Wednesday, adding that a temporary ceasefire was also agreed upon.

Prisoner release

The TTP delegates had handed over a list of 30 key commanders to the Pakistani government to which Islamabad gave a positive response and assured to seriously consider the names.

Jets hired by military to deliver baby food in U.S.

Country staring at a major shortage

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

The U.S. government will fly in baby formula on commercial planes contracted by the military in an airlift aimed at easing the major shortage plaguing the country, the White House said on Wednesday.

The lack of formula – the result of a perfect storm of supply chain issues and a massive recall – is leaving parents increasingly desperate.

U.S. authorities have dubbed their effort as Operation Fly Formula.

The Department of Defense "will use its contracts with commercial air cargo lines, as it did to move materials during the early months of the COVID pandemic, to transport products from manufacturing facilities abroad," the White House said.

Nasheed to help 'coordinate' Sri Lanka's foreign aid efforts

Ranil ropes in Maldivian friend; Indian banks' help sought

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has appointed Maldivian Parliamentary Speaker and former President Mohamed Nasheed as the "coordinator" for securing foreign aid to Sri Lanka that is facing an unprecedented economic crisis.

Mr. Wickremesinghe on Thursday held a closed-door meeting with his long-time friend Mr. Nasheed who is visiting Colombo, and discussed Sri Lanka's dire economic situation, while exploring possible sources of relief. "During the discussions, the former President of Maldives generously offered to assist Sri Lanka in securing relief for the country from foreign nations. The Prime Minister accepted the former President's offer and appointed him to coordinate the relief efforts," Mr. Wickremesinghe's office said in a statement.

Mr. Nasheed – who has spent many of his years in exile in Sri Lanka – has maintained close links with Sri Lankan leaders across political parties. Observing that the situation in Sri Lanka is "extremely serious", he told *The Hindu* in Colombo: "We must all do whatever we can in times of need for our neighbour and cousin. I will do everything I can to assist the people of Sri Lanka."

Mohamed Nasheed

Mr. Nasheed, known for his wide international appeal as an advocate of democracy and human rights, will reach out to international partners and regional leaders on Sri Lanka's behalf, to secure immediate assistance.

Sri Lanka's foreign reserves have depleted rapidly in the last few months, leaving the government desperate for dollars to import essentials, including food, fuel, and medicines. According to political sources in Colombo, Mr. Wickremesinghe is counting on the QUAD grouping – the U.S., India, Japan, and Australia – to lead the foreign aid consortium that he mooted soon after his sudden appointment on May 12, amid political tumult in Sri Lanka.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Nasheed made a specific appeal to Indian banks and the Indian business community to "make themselves available" for Sri Lanka. "My plea to the generous people of India, especially entrepreneurs and businesspeople, is please make yourselves available for financing and debt restructuring to support Sri Lanka."

Financial institutions must "underwrite" Sri Lanka's future, Mr. Nasheed said, adding Indian entrepreneurs and banks "are very well placed" to do so.

Further, Mr. Nasheed observed that Maldivians "will never forget" the help extended by Sri Lanka and its leaders throughout the years. "If I have a single penny, I will make sure Sri Lankans have it," he said.

Mr. Nasheed has closely followed and weighed in on developments in Sri Lanka in recent weeks. Following violent attacks that spilled over to the streets of Colombo and elsewhere on May 9, he said in a tweet: "Oh my dearest Lanka, please don't go there. Please come back."

On Mr. Wickremesinghe's appointment, Mr. Nasheed tweeted again, saying: "I wish Sri Lanka's new PM the very best of luck. Throughout my political life, I've always listened to Ranil's advice & it has never been found wanting. Sri Lanka is in trouble, but I've no doubt the PM will do his best to bring back prosperity."

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernisation Project (TNIAMP)
REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)
(One-Envelope Bidding Process without e-Procurement)
NATIONAL OPEN COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT
BID INVITATION NO: 13 / PBC / T.V.MALAI / 2022-2023 / F.142 (TN IAMP) / JDO.4 / DATE: 19.05.2022

NAME OF PROJECTS: Rehabilitation and Modernisation of 1 Tank and its Supply Channel in Chengam Block & Taluk, 21 Tanks and 1 Anicut and its Supply Channel in Puthupalayam Block of Chengam Taluk, 4 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Thurinjapuram Block of Tiruvannamalai Taluk, 18 Tanks and 11 Anicuts and its Supply Channel in Kalasapakkam Block and Taluk, 41 Tanks, 2 Anicuts and its Supply channel and 1 Channel in Polur Block and Taluk, 17 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Chetpet Block of Polur Taluk, 14 Tanks and its Supply channel in Chetpet Block and Taluk, 5 Tanks in Peranamallur Block of Chetpet Taluk, 2 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Arni West Block of Chetpet Taluk, 8 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Arni West Block of Arni Taluk, 22 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Arni Block and Taluk, 3 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Cheyyar Block and Taluk, 3 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Anakkavur Block in Cheyyar Taluk of Tiruvannamalai District and 2 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Arcot Block of Walaja Taluk, 7 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Arcot Block and Taluk, 1 Tank and its Supply Channel in Timiri Block of Arcot Taluk, 3 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Timiri Block of Kalavai Taluk of Ranipet District under Cheyyar Sub Basin.

RFB REFERENCE NOS.: (Package No. 01 / TN IAMP / WRD / CHY / WORKS / Phase – III / 2020 – 2021)

1. The Government of India has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernisation Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward eligible payments under the contract for construction of works as detailed below.
2. Bidding will be conducted through national open competitive procurement using a Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, July 2016, Revised August 2018" ("Procurement Regulations"), and is open to all Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.
3. Bidders from India should, however, be registered with the Government of Tamil Nadu under Class I or other State Governments / Government of India, or State / Central Government Undertakings. Bidders from India, who are not registered as above, on the date of bidding, can also participate provided they get themselves registered by the time of contract signing, if they become successful bidders.
4. The Water Resources Department, Government of Tamil Nadu. For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu. The Superintending Engineer, WRD, Pennaiyar Basin Circle, Tiruvannamalai - 606 603, Tiruvannamalai District, Tamil Nadu now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the construction of works detailed below in the table. The bidders may submit bids for any or all of the works indicated therein. Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding document at the address given below during office hours. Bidders are advised to note the clauses on eligibility (Section I Clause 4) and minimum qualification criteria (Section III – Evaluation and Qualification Criteria), to qualify for the award of the contract. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 3.14 and 3.15 of the "Procurement Regulations" setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
5. The bidding document (and additional copies) may be purchased by interested eligible Bidders from the office of The Superintending Engineer, WRD, Pennaiyar Basin Circle, Tiruvannamalai - 606 603, Tiruvannamalai District, Tamil Nadu from 26.05.2022 to 28.06.2022 upon payment of a non-refundable fee (three sets) as indicated in the table below, in the form of Demand Draft (DD) on any Scheduled / Nationalized bank payable in favour of the Executive Engineer, WRD, Middle Pennaiyar Basin Division, Tiruvannamalai - 606 603. Bidding document requested by mail will be dispatched by courier/speed post on payment of an extra amount of Rs.500/-. The Superintending Engineer, WRD, Pennaiyar Basin Circle, Tiruvannamalai - 606 603, Tiruvannamalai District, Tamil Nadu will not be held responsible for the postal delay if any, in the delivery of the documents or non-receipt of the same. **The bidding document can be downloaded from the website https://www.tenders.tn.gov.in at free of cost. In such cases, the bidder is responsible for ensuring that any addenda available on the website is also downloaded and incorporated.**
6. Bids must be delivered to The Superintending Engineer, WRD, Pennaiyar Basin Circle, Tiruvannamalai - 606 603, Tiruvannamalai District, Tamil Nadu on or before **12.00 Noon (IST) on 29.06.2022** and will be publicly opened on the same day for **Lot No. 1 at 12.30 PM (IST),** for **Lot No. 2 at 14.30 PM (IST), for Lot No. 3 at 16.30 PM (IST),** in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives. If the office happens to be closed on the date of receipt of the bids as specified, the bids will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. Late Bids will be rejected.
7. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security (or "Bid-Securing Declaration," as appropriate) of the amount specified for the work in the table below, drawn in favour of for the Executive Engineer, WRD, Middle Pennaiyar Basin Division, Tiruvannamalai – 3. Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding document and shall have to be valid for 45 days beyond the validity of the bid.
8. A pre-bid meeting will be held on 06.06.2022 at 11.00 AM at the office of The Superintending Engineer, WRD., Pennaiyar Basin Circle, Tiruvannamalai – 606 603, Tiruvannamalai District, Tamil Nadu to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in ITB Clause 7.4 of 'Instructions to Bidders' of the bidding document. Bidders are advised to obtain the bidding document prior to the pre-bid meeting in order for bidders to have a good understanding of the scope of work under this contract for discussion and clarification at the pre-bid meeting.
9. Other details can be seen in the bidding document.
10. The address for communication is as under:

Superintending Engineer's Chamber,
Er. V. SAMRAJ, B.E.,
Superintending Engineer, Pennaiyar Basin Circle, WRD, Tiruvannamalai – 606 603.
Tiruvannamalai District, Tamil Nadu. 04175 – 236921
sepbc52@yahoo.co.in | sepbctvmala2007@rediffmail.com | http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in

TABLE

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of Work	*Bid Value (Rs. in Lakhs) (Inclusive of GST)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lakhs)	*Cost of document (in Rs.)	**Period of completion (including Six months rainy season and 6 month of Water Regulation period)	Last Date and Time for receipt of Bids and Opening Time
	01 / TN IAMP / WRD / CHY / WORKS / Phase – III / 2020 – 2021	Rehabilitation and Modernisation of 1 Tank and its Supply Channel in Chengam Block & Taluk, 21 Tanks and 1 Anicut and its Supply Channel in Puthupalayam Block of Chengam Taluk, 4 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Thurinjapuram Block of Tiruvannamalai Taluk, 18 Tanks and 11 Anicuts and its Supply Channel in Kalasapakkam Block and Taluk, 41 Tanks, 2 Anicuts and its Supply channel and 1 Channel in Polur Block and Taluk, 17 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Chetpet Block of Polur Taluk, 14 Tanks and its Supply channel in Chetpet Block and Taluk, 5 Tanks in Peranamallur Block of Chetpet Taluk, 2 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Arni West Block of Chetpet Taluk, 8 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Arni West Block of Arni Taluk, 22 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Arni Block and Taluk, 3 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Cheyyar Block and Taluk, 3 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Anakkavur Block in Cheyyar Taluk of Tiruvannamalai District and 2 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Arcot Block of Walaja Taluk, 7 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Arcot Block and Taluk, 1 Tank and its Supply Channel in Timiri Block of Arcot Taluk, 3 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Timiri Block of Kalavai Taluk of Ranipet District under Cheyyar Sub Basin.	–	–	–	–	–
1.	01 / TN IAMP / WRD / CHY / WORKS / Phase – III / 2020 – 2021 **Lot No.1**	Rehabilitation and Modernisation of 41 Tanks, 2 Anicuts and its Supply Channel and 1 Channel in Polur Block and Taluk, 7 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Chetpet Block of Polur Taluk, 10 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Chetpet Block and Taluk, 8 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Arni West Block of Arni Taluk, 22 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Arni Block and Taluk, 3 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Cheyyar Block and Taluk of Tiruvannamalai District under Cheyyar Sub Basin.	4184.34 Lakhs	83.70 Lakhs	15000 + 2,700	24 Months	29.06.2022 upto 12.00 Hours (IST) opening Time 29.06.2022 at 12.30 Hours (IST)
2.	01 / TN IAMP / WRD / CHY / WORKS / Phase – III / 2020 – 2021 **Lot No.2**	Rehabilitation and Modernisation of 1 Tank and its Supply Channel in Chengam Block and Taluk, 21Tanks and 1 Anicut its Supply Channel in Puduplalayam Block of Chengam Taluk, 4 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Thurinjapuram Block of Tiruvannamalai Taluk, 18 Tanks and 11 Anicuts and its Supply Channel in Kalasapakkam Block and Taluk of Tiruvannamalai District under Cheyyar Sub Basin.	2402.96 Lakhs	48.10 Lakhs	15000 + 2,700	24 Months	29.06.2022 upto 12.00 Hours (IST) opening Time 29.06.2022 at 14.30 Hours (IST)
3.	01 / TN IAMP / WRD / CHY / WORKS / Phase – III / 2020 – 2021 **Lot No.3**	Rehabilitation and Modernisation of 10 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Chetpet Block of Polur Taluk, 4 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Chetpet Block and Taluk, 5 Tanks in Peranamallur Block of Chetpet Taluk, 2 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Arni West Block of Chetpet Taluk, 3 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Anakkavoor Block in Cheyyar Taluk of Tiruvannamalai District and 2 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Arcot Block of Walajah Taluk, 7 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Arcot Block and Taluk, 1 Tank and its Supply Channel in Timiri Block of Arcot Taluk, 3 Tanks and its Supply Channel in Timiri Block of Kalavai Taluk of Ranipetai District under Cheyyar Sub Basin.	1161.12 Lakhs	23.25 Lakhs	15000 + 2,700	24 Months	29.06.2022 upto 12.00 Hours (IST) opening Time 29.06.2022 at 16.30 Hours (IST)

* For work value Inclusive of GST 12%
** Including Water Regulation and Rainy season
DIPR/2382/Tender/2022

Superintending Engineer, WRD, Pennaiyar Basin Circle, Tiruvannamalai – 606 603.

"சென்னை சுத்தம் சுகாதாரம் மிகுந்தது, எனவே பரிந்து சிந்திப்போம் பயன்படுத்துவோம்"

CHENNAI SMART CITY LIMITED

e-tenders are invited for the following work in Two Cover System

Selection of Agency for Revenue Generation from Carbon Credits for Chennai Smart City Limited
EMD : Rs.15,000/-
Pre-bid meeting will be held on 30.05.2022 at 3.00 PM
Tender submission date and time : 20.06.2022 upto 3.00 PM
Bid document will be available in website : **https://tntenders.gov.in and https://cscl.co.in**
Tender open date and time : 21.06.2022 at 3.30 PM

Managing Director
DIPR/2390/Tender/2022
"சென்னை சுத்தம் சுகாதாரம் மிகுந்தது, எனவே பரிந்து சிந்திப்போம் பயன்படுத்துவோம்"

Karnataka Veterinary, Animal & Fisheries Sciences University, Bidar

E-PROCUREMENT MODE

45 Days Pre-Qualification Tender Notification

No. R/KVAFSU/eproc.79/G&S/2021-22 Dt.: 31.03.2022

KVAFSU Bidar invites bids through e-procurement in single cover system for **Modification of Swine Fever vaccine manufacturing facilities as per GMP** from Tenderers registered in e-procurement cell of Government of Karnataka, Total cost of the tendered amount is **Rs. 700.00 Lakhs.**

The detailed notification of tender can be obtained by logging on to website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **17.05.2022**. The last date for uploading tender documents is **01.07.2022** up to **5:00 PM**. Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Er. Ramappa. H. Korawar, Estate Officer(I/c),
KVAFSU, Bidar-585226. Ph.: 9483969344

DIPR/CPL/C/573/2022-23

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

भारत सरकार • अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह, एसडीएससी-शार / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR
श्रीहरिकोटा / नेल्लूर (जिला), आं.प्र./ SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

संक्षिप्त ई–निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

सं.शार:सीएमजी सिविल: अनुरक्षण: ई–जन निविदा/ No:SHAR:CMGC/VIL:MAINT:E-PT-03/22-23 तिथि/ Date. 17.05.2022

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से **"शार सुल्लुरुपेट रोड में आरसीसी हैंडरेल के पुलिया को बदलना"** (टीएसी-22-011, अनुमानित लागत ₹23.37 लाख); **"एसडीएससी शार क्षेत्रों में रंगाई–पुताई का कार्य"** (टीएसी-22-012, अनुमानित लागत ₹32.53 लाख); **"एसएमपीसी यूनिट–2 में विविध सिविल कार्य"** (टीएसी-22-013, अनुमानित लागत ₹11.29 लाख); **"एसएमपीसी यूनिट–1 में सुरक्षा कक्ष का निर्माण तथा विविध कार्य"** (टीएसी-22-014, अनुमानित लागत ₹8.62 लाख), हेतु मद दर निविदाएं ऑनलाइन आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा दस्तावेजों को **02.06.2022** को **14:30** बजे तक डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। विस्तृत सूचना हेतु इच्छुक निविदाकार हमारी वेबसाइट **www.isro.gov.in** या **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** देखें।

On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for **"Replacement of culvert RCC hand rail, SHAR Sullurpeta road"** (T/C-22-011, Est. cost ₹23.37 Lakhs); **"Painting works @ SDSC SHAR areas"** (T/C-22-012, Est. cost ₹32.53 Lakhs); **"Miscellaneous civil works @ SMPC unit-2"** (T/C-22-013, Est. cost ₹11.29 Lakhs); **"Construction of security cabin, Misc works @ SMPC unit-1"** (T/C-22-014, Est. cost ₹8.62 Lakhs). Tender Documents can be downloaded up to **02.06.2022, 14:30 hrs**. Interested tenderers may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.

हस्ताक्षरित/- समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी / एसडीएससी शार / Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2945600, FAX No. 0471-2945647),
E-mail : oncocare@kmscl.kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No.KMSCL/OD/AHD/266/2022 Date : 19.05.2022

E- TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are invited from manufacturers/ loan licensees on behalf of Animal Husbandry Department, Govt of Kerala for the procurement of Veterinary Medicines for the year 2021-22.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	Category	No. of Items
1.	KMSCL/AHD-VET/RC/2022/006 dtd. 19.05.2022	Veterinary Medicines	48

The last date and time of online uploading of tender will be 10.06.2022, 5.00 pm. The date and time of opening of Technical bid will be 16.06.2022 11.00 am. Tender shall be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.**

(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

MARKET WATCH

	19-05-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	52,792	-2.61
US Dollar	77.65	-0.05
Gold	50,027	-0.02
Brent oil	110.62	0.88

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	732.80	-27.00
Apollo Hosp	3631.80	-103.20
Asian Paints	3046.90	-53.20
Axis Bank	650.20	-9.25
Bajaj Auto	3698.55	-92.65
Bajaj Finserv	12413.85	-348.30
Bajaj Finance	5707.00	-108.20
Bharti Airtel	674.25	-21.90
BPCL	326.65	-5.25
Britannia Ind	3332.05	-62.30
Cipla	938.00	-19.10
Coal India	181.20	-4.15
Divis Lab	4199.20	-167.50
Dr Reddys Lab	3929.45	23.65
Eicher Motors	2650.50	-45.50
Grasim Ind	1457.80	-29.55
HCL Tech	1009.40	-64.30
HDFC	2136.30	-48.25
HDFC Bank	1287.05	-26.85
HDFC Life	528.70	-21.30
Hero MotoCorp	2515.50	-23.50
Hindalco	417.00	-19.10
Hind Unilever	2264.55	-26.85
ICICI Bank	690.30	-17.05
Indusind Bank	866.25	-36.90
Infosys	1427.15	-82.05
ITC	275.65	8.85
JSW Steel	600.20	-30.85
Kotak Bank	1783.40	-63.40
L&T	1547.95	-24.55
M&M	882.55	-30.75
Maruti Suzuki	7404.55	-162.00
Nestle India Ltd.	16094.25	-249.35
NTPC	148.00	-0.50
ONGC	160.00	-3.20
PowerGrid Corp	228.30	0.40
Reliance Ind	2479.85	-58.50
SBI Life	1056.65	-17.25
State Bank	447.50	-10.50
Shree Cement	22216.35	-284.95
Sun Pharma	884.60	-14.55
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	721.30	-33.00
Tata Motors	398.65	-16.50
Tata Steel	1122.15	-58.10
TCS	3261.95	-186.85
Tech Mahindra	1108.35	-63.70
Titan	2111.95	-54.80
UltraTech Cement	6072.60	-161.15
UPL	814.00	-7.10
Wipro	451.15	-30.10

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 19

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	77.53	77.85
Euro	81.40	81.74
British Pound	96.20	96.60
Japanese Yen (100)	60.70	60.97
Chinese Yuan	11.46	11.51
Swiss Franc	79.31	79.68
Singapore Dollar	55.93	56.17
Canadian Dollar	60.44	60.69
Malaysian Ringitt	17.59	17.68
Australian Dollar	54.27	54.50

Source:Indian Bank

SC verdict will not alter the GST regime: FinMin

Kerala, Tamil Nadu Finance Ministers hail apex court ruling for safeguarding States' rights, stressing cooperative federalism

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court verdict does not entail any changes 'in any way' to the functioning of the GST regime and the institutional mechanism for its operation, the Finance Ministry asserted on Thursday, even as some States welcomed the decision for clearly enunciating and safeguarding their rights.

Terming the GST Council 'the finest example of collaborative and cooperative federalism', the Finance Ministry said that the apex court had 'only elaborated' on its functional mechanism in its observations.

"This judgment does not in any way lay down anything new in so far as the GST institutional mechanism is concerned, does not have any bearing on the way GST has been functioning in India, nor lays down anything fundamentally different to the existing framework of GST," it noted, seeking to quell anxiety about the future of the indirect tax system introduced in July 2017.

The Council was a collaborative institutional mechanism, and the Centre and States follow its recommendations that are arrived at with consensus, the ministry said, stressing that there had been only 'a solitary instance' where a decision required voting.

"Even in this case, the dissenting States implemented the decision of GST Council," the ministry said in a statement, adding that it would review the 153-page judgement in detail. "In all other instances, which run into more than a thousand, the decisions have been taken with consensus," it added.

No change: Judgment does not lay down anything new on the GST's institutional mechanism, says Ministry. •NAGARA GOPAL

'Persuasive for primary'

Stressing that the apex court had only elaborated upon the constitutional scheme for GST, it said the court had observed that the Council's recommendations had persuasive value for primary legislation, but its recommendations were binding for subordinate legislation such as issue of notification, framing of rules, prescribing rates and taxes.

Kerala Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal hailed the SC ruling for upholding the relevance of cooperative federalism and said it would have a far-reaching impact on the country's tax structure and Centre-State relations.

'Arbitrarily imposing'

"Ever since the GST regime came into being, the Centre had been arbitrarily imposing its decisions on the States, affecting their revenue and forcing them to impose treasury restrictions," he said in Thiruvananthapuram, expressing the hope that this would pave the way for States to be able to protect their rights and ensure financial stability.

Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan said in Madurai that the verdict safeguarded States' rights by stating that the recommendations of the GST Council were not binding on the Centre and the State.

"The Council was a only a recommendatory body and cannot supersede the State's rights and power for enacting the laws with regard to GST," he pointed out. The State too had powers to enact laws. The Council could only make recommendations and the decision was not binding on the Centre and the State.

Tax experts were tentative about the implications of the verdict. "This would have far-reaching implications on various other matters where the States are not in agreement with the decisions of the GST Council, especially in light of the compensation period coming to an end in June," said Mahesh Jaising, partner at Deloitte India.

'Cotton prices may derail apparel export'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The unabated surge in prices of cotton and cotton yarn may affect the country's apparel exports target of $19-20 billion during the current fiscal, AEPC chairman Narendra Goenka said on Thursday.

Observing that prices had jumped by about 125-130% during the last 18 months, Mr. Goenka said one of the reasons would be "unchecked" exports of cotton and cotton yarn.

He suggested the Centre impose a temporary ban on exports of cotton and cotton yarn, like Indonesia had done with palm oil.

He added that if the price rise did not stop, global customers would start looking at sourcing options other than India.

SC dismisses SP group's plea to review Tata order

Bench to delete remarks against Mistry

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed a review petition filed by the Shapoorji Pallonji (SP) group against the court's judgment upholding the ouster of Cyrus Mistry as Executive Chairman of Tata Sons Private Limited.

"Sorry, the review is not entertained. Dismissed," a three-judge Bench of Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, Justices A.S. Bopanna and V. Ramasubramanian said after a brief hearing.

The court, however, agreed to delete certain "personal" observations made against Mr. Mistry in the apex court's March 2021 judgment.

Cyrus Mistry

"We welcome today's order of the Honourable Supreme Court with humility," Tata Sons said.

"It reaffirms, once again, Tata Group's position which was upheld by a unanimous judgment last year."

Ashok Leyland Q4 net drops 58%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Ashok Leyland on Thursday reported a 58.1% drop in consolidated net profit to ₹157.85 crore in the quarter ended March, impacted by higher expenses.

Revenue from operations grew to ₹9,926.97 crore from ₹8,142.11 crore a year earlier. Total expenses were higher at ₹9,429.55 crore compared with ₹7,831.21 crore. The board recommended a dividend of ₹1 per share for the year.

"The CV industry is on a recovery owing to improvement in the macroeconomic environment and healthy demand," executive chairman Dheeraj Hinduja said.

Equity indices plunge 2.6% on inflation, growth concerns

'Global growth momentum slowing on liquidity tightening'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Key stock indices fell 2.6% on Thursday on concerns over quickening inflation and slowing global growth, including in India. The rupee also came under pressure owing to foreign investor outflows from equities.

The S&P BSE Sensex plunged 1,416.30 points, or 2.61%, to 52,792.23 led by a major sell-off in technology stocks. Wipro (6.21%), HCL Tech (6%), Tech Mahindra (5.49%), Infosys (5.46%) and TCS (5.17%) fell the most.

The NSE Nifty50 too slid 430.90 points, or 2.65%, to 15,809.40. "The recent earnings reported by U.S. retailers reflected the heat of high retail inflation, resulting in the rout on Wall Street," said Vinod Nair, head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. "Persistent offloading by foreign investors, along with mounting fears of an economic slowdown, wreaked havoc in the domestic market," he added.

Growth momentum in the global economy has been slowing down due to liquidity tightening by central banks, said Naveen Kulkarni, chief investment officer, Axis Securities.

The rupee weakened to 77.65 against the dollar, compared with the previous close of 77.62.

"The rupee has continued its losing streak after a brief respite, as fragile risk sentiment in the markets continues to push the domestic currency... to an all-time closing low," said Sugandha Sachdeva, vice president, Commodity and Currency Research, Religare Broking.

Maruti, Suzuki to set up units in Haryana

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

The proposed plants of Maurti Suzuki and Suzuki Motorcycle in Haryana will entail an estimated investment of ₹20,000 crore and generate about 13,000 direct jobs.

Agreements to this effect were signed by the Haryana government with the two firms on Thursday.

Maruti Suzuki plant would be the firm's largest single manufacturing site in India involving a total investment of about ₹18,000 crore. Suzuki Motorcycle's project will be spread across 100 acres and entail an investment of about ₹1,500 crore. It will generate about 2,000 jobs.

IN BRIEF

'India will see hydrogen vehicle pilots by FY26'

BENGALURU

Bosch Ltd. said it was working towards pilot deployments of hydrogen-based vehicles by 2025-26 in India. "We as a country are not going to lag behind any advanced countries in hydrogen-based vehicles," said Guruprasad Mudlapur, JMD and CTO.

Centre decides to lift price cap on raw jute

The government said it has decided to lift the price cap of ₹6,500 per quintal on raw jute from May 20 this year. It is expected that this will help farmers, mills and jute MSME sector, wherein over 7 lakh people are dependent on the jute trade in addition to about 40 lakh jute farmers, the Textiles Ministry said. PTI

India signs deals to export 8.5 MT of sugar: ISMA

REUTERS
MUMBAI

Indian mills have so far signed contracts to export 8.5 million tonnes of sugar in the 2021/22 marketing year without government subsidies, a leading trade body said on Thursday.

Mills have already dispatched around 7.1 million tonnes since the start of the marketing year on Oct. 1, the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) said in a statement.

Mills have so far produced 34.88 million tonnes of sugar in the current year, up from last year's 30.48 million tonnes, the trade body said.

J.P. Morgan downgrades IT sector on inflation, war

Slowdown to worsen in 2023, it says

REUTERS

Soaring inflation, supply-chain issues and the hit from the Ukraine war will bring an end to the growth boom India's IT services industry enjoyed during the pandemic, J.P.Morgan analysts said on Thursday as they downgraded the sector to "underweight".

The $194-billion sector is facing a demand slowdown this year as staff return to offices and the Russia-Ukraine war weighs on spending from clients in Europe.

Margins trending down

"We see peak revenue growth behind us and EBIT margins trending down from inflation, mean reversion," JPM said.

"While the bottom-up outlook remains positive from most Services, Software and SaaS names YTD, we feel there are more downside risks to current earnings assumptions." It expects the slowdown to worsen in 2023 partly due to a potential decline in orders from the key market of U.S. where economic growth has started to weaken.

War to slow India's growth to 6.4%: UN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
UNITED NATIONS

As the Ukraine conflict impacts global GDP, India is projected to grow by 6.4% in 2022, slower than last year's 8.8% but still the fastest-growing major economy, with higher inflationary pressures and uneven recovery of the labour market curbing private consumption and investment, according to an UN report.

"India, the largest economy in the region, is expected to grow by 6.4% in 2022, well below the 8.8% growth in 2021, as higher inflationary pressures and uneven recovery of the labour market will curb private consumption and investment," it said.

DRL Q4 net drops 83% on impairment charges

Revenue from operations climbs 15%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories reported a close to 83% year-on-year decline in consolidated net profit to ₹97 crore for the quarter ended March. Revenue from operations increased almost 15% to ₹5,474.9 crore.

Denting the bottomline were the ₹741-crore impairment charges the drugmaker recorded on account of significant changes to market conditions for certain products leading to lower volumes, according to the results prepared under the Indian Accounting Standards. The company also made provisions towards an old litigation with the State of Texas, U.S. of ₹98 crore.

For the fiscal, net profit climbed to ₹2,182.5 crore (₹1,951.6 crore). Revenue from operations grew 11.6% to ₹21,545.2 crore.

In spite of multiple external challenges, the core businesses 'performed well, driven by an increase in market share, some strong launches and productivity improvement', co-chairman and MD G.V. Prasad said.

Adani eyes $4-billion foray into healthcare

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Billionaire Gautam Adani's group has created a new company for its foray into healthcare services through the acquisition of large hospitals, diagnostic chains and offline and digital pharmacies.

Adani Enterprises Ltd., the group's business incubator firm, in a regulatory filing said a wholly owned subsidiary Adani Health Ventures Ltd. (AHVL) was incorporated on May 17.

AHVL, it said, will commence its business operations in due course. For its healthcare foray, the group reportedly has been in talks with big names and may invest up to $4 billion.

SPORT

Frankfurt's 42-year wait ends

Beats Rangers on penalties to win the Europa League

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SEVILLE

Eintracht Frankfurt's 42-year wait for a European title ended on Wednesday with a 5-4 penalty shootout win over Rangers in the Europa League final.

Rafael Borre converted the decisive penalty kick after Kevin Trapp saved Aaron Ramsey's shot, giving the German club its first European trophy since the 1980 UEFA Cup, a predecessor to the Europa League. The win also secures a first appearance in Champions League next season for Frankfurt.

Trapp had already made a key save in the final minutes of extra time, stretching out a leg to stop a close-range shot by Ryan Kent. The veteran goalkeeper used his left leg to stop Ramsey's penalty in the shootout, setting off huge celebrations by Frankfurt's "white wall" of fans behind the opposite goal.

Icing on the cake: Frankfurt capped an unbeaten run by lifting the trophy. •AFP

There were also wild celebrations back in Germany as Frankfurt fans packed the club's stadium to watch the final. The match ended 1-1 after regulation and extra time.

Joe Aribo gave Rangers the lead in the 57th minute and Borre equalised for Frankfurt in the 69th.

Rangers was trying to win its first European title since lifting the trophy of the Cup Winners' Cup in 1972.

The result (final):

Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Borre 69) drew with Rangers 1 (Aribo 57) (after extra-time, Frankfurt won 5-4 on penalties).

IN BRIEF

Sania & Hradecka in last four

STRASBOURG (FRANCE)

Top seeds Sania Mirza and Lucie Hradecka beat Nadiia Kichenok and Raluca Olaru 6-3, 7-6(4) in the doubles quarterfinals of €203,024 WTA tennis tournament.

Other results: $53,120 Challenger, Tunis, Tunisia: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Sriram Balaji & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan bt Moez Echargui (Tun) & Elmar Ejupovic (Ger) 6-3, 6-4.

$60,000 ITF women, Rome: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Maja Chwalinska (Pol) & Cristina Dinu (Rou) bt BerfuCengiz (Tur) & Ankita Raina 6-4, 7-5.

SL-Bangladesh Test drawn

CHITTAGONG

Bangladesh and Sri Lanka drew the first Test on Thursday after Dinesh Chandimal and Niroshan Dickwella were involved in a vital seventh-wicket stand.

The scores: Sri Lanka 397 & 260/6 in 90.1 overs (Dimuth Karunaratne 52, Kusal Mendis 48, Niroshan Dickewella 61 n.o., Taijul Islam 4/82) drew with Bangladesh 465.

Warriors outgun Mavs

SAN FRANCISCO

Stephen Curry scored 21 points as Golden State Warriors bottled up Luka Doncic and Dallas Mavericks to win the Western Conference finals series opener 112-87 on Wednesday. AFP

Ghosal loses in pre-quarters

CAIRO

India's Saurav Ghosal lost 11-2, 11-7, 11-3 to World No. 4 Mostafa Asal in the pre-quarterfinals of the World sqaush Championships here. P11

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Sports 18, Voot Select, MTV, Vh1 & Jio TV, 6 a.m.
Badminton: Thailand Open, Sports 18 & Voot Select, 11.30 a.m. onwards
IPL 2022: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
La Liga: Sports 18, Voot Select, MTV & Jio TV, 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)
Serie A: Sports 18, Voot Select, Vh1 & Jio TV, 12.15 a.m. (Saturday).

Indian women win recurve bronze

ARCHERY

SPORTS BUREAU

The Indian recurve women's team bagged a bronze and Mohan Bhardwaj reached the semifinals of the compound men's event at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Gwangju, South Korea, on Thursday.

The fifth-ranked Indian women's side – comprising Ridhi Phor, Komalika Bari and Ankita Bhakat – defeated Brazil 5-4 and Mexico 6-2 but went down to South Korea 6-2 in the semifinals.

The trio defeated second-ranked Chinese Taipei – including World Cup bronze medallist Kuo Tzu Ying, Olympic Games medallist Lei Chien-Ying and Worlds medallist Chiu Yi-Ching – 6-2 (56-52, 54-51, 54-55, 55-54) to take the bronze.

The men's recurve team of Tarundeep Rai, Neeraj Chauhan and Jayanta Talukdar got a first-round bye, beat Turkey 5-4 (shoot-off 28-27) before losing to France 2-6 in quarterfinals.

Creditable show: Komalika, Ankita and Ridhi with coach Purnima Mahato, second from right. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In compound men's individual, Mohan got the better of Australians Patrick Coghlan 146-144 and Scott Brice 146-143, Slovakian Jozef Bosansky 149-145 and Korean Yang Jaewon 147-140 to reach the last-four.

Aman Saini lost to Denmark's Mathias Fullerton 147-149 in the pre-quarterfinals. Also, Abhishek Verma was stunned in the second round, while Rajat Chauhan fell in the opening round.

In compound women's individual, Muskan Kirar lost to Korean Yunhee Kim 143-142 in the pre-quarterfinals, Priya Gurjar and Avneet Kaur exited in the second round, and Raginee Marko lost in the first round.

Nikhat adds gold to a glittering career

Brushes aside Thai Olympian Jitpong to become the fifth Indian woman to win a World title

Dominant show: Nikhat's fast combinations put Jitpong under pressure in a bout decided unanimously in the Indian's favour. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

BOXING WORLDS

SPORTS BUREAU

Nikhat Zareen gave a dazzling performance to beat Thai Olympian Jutamas Jitpong 5-0 and become the fifth Indian woman to win a World title at Istanbul on Thursday.

The June-born Nikhat, a former World junior champion and an Asian bronze medallist, celebrated her birthday early as she screamed out of joy when the announcer declared her the winner after the 52kg-final bout in the World women's championships.

Six-time champion M.C. Mary Kom, Sarita Devi, R.L. Jenny and K.C. Lekha are the other Indian women who have won the crown.

India last won a World title when Mary had become a six-time champion in Delhi in 2018.

Underlines her status

With this performance, Nikhat – who had earlier defeated World champions in other events – underlined her status as a world-class boxer.

Nikhat had beaten the Thai with a 4-1 verdict in their previous meeting in the 51kg semifinals of the 2019 Thailand Open.

The Indian relied on her fast combinations to stay ahead of Jitpong who landed straight ones and ducked a lot in the opening round.

The Thai delivered more punches in the following round to close the gap a little bit.

Nikhat attacked with more determination and delivered enough punches in the final round to take the bout.

Nikhat had also beaten Mexican Fatima Herrera, Mongolia's Lutsaikhan Altantsetseg, England's Charley Davison and Brazil's Caroline de Almeida with an identical 5-0 margin on her way to the final in a country where she had achieved several successes in the past.

In her previous appearance in the event in 54kg, Nikhat had made it to the quarterfinals in 2016 in Astana.

India finished the event with one gold and two bronze medals. Manisha Moun (57kg) and Parveen (63kg) got the bronze medals.

Overall, India has won 10 gold, eight silver and 21 bronze medals in the 12 editions of the World championships.

BFI pat

"Winning a medal at the world's is always a dream and Nikhat could achieve it so early is extremely commendable," said Boxing Federation of India (BFI) president Ajay Singh.

'I owe it to my parents'

Y.B. SARANGI

After winning her maiden World championships crown in Istanbul on Thursday, Nikhat Zareen thanked her parents for their unwavering support during the tough times which helped her emerge stronger.

"I was thinking about my parents... my mom would pray for my success and her prayers have borne fruit today. My father has supported me so much during my journey. I owe everything to them. When I was going through a hard phase, my parents and my family stood by me. This is all thanks to them," said Nikhat.

The boxer from Telangana said she was looking for a unanimous decision in the final.

"The focus was on a unanimous decision, especially in the first two rounds, so that I could get the bout in my favour and be a little relaxed in the third round."

Nikhat said she would continue to work on her game and hoped to compete at the Commonwealth Games.

"I will continue to focus on training and staying injury-free as the Commonwealth Games is coming up," she said.

Incredible journey takes her to dream destination

Nikhat overcomes odds, makes it big

Tasting success: Nikhat savours the golden moment. • PTI

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

It has been an incredible journey for boxer Nikhat Zareen who scaled the summit by winning the gold in the World women's championship in Istanbul on Thursday.

Nikhat's is yet another success story in Indian sport where a normal middle-class girl has defied odds to carve out a niche for herself.

The defining moment of her career was when Shamsuddin, a coach in Nizamabad (Telangana), felt that Nikhat should take up the sport not just because of her guts and grit, but also for the fact that she had a much better chance to make it big in women's boxing.

Nikhat took up boxing at 13 and within six months bagged the State championship gold in 2010 at Karimnagar. She was picked for the Rural Nationals in Punjab and made a big impact with another golden performance.

Within three months, Nikhat was adjudged the 'best boxer' at the sub-junior Nationals at Erode (Tamil Nadu) where her gold-winning spree continued.

Soon, Nikhat joined the SAI camp in Visakhapatnam under the tutelage of Dronacharya I. Venkateswara Rao. She went on to take the top spot at the 2011 World junior and youth championship in Antalya, Turkey.

Her father Mohammed Jameel Ahmed recalled the challenges faced, including the tussle with Mary Kom over the qualification process for the Tokyo Olympics, or the shoulder injury in 2018 which kept her out for nearly one year.

"This victory is dedicated to the millions of Indians who supported her right through," said Jameel.

Kohli regains his touch, powers Royal Challengers to a comfortable win

Forges a 115-run opening stand with du Plessis to lay the foundation for the chase after Hardik, Miller and Saha help Titans finish at 168

IPL 2022

ASHWIN ACHAL
MUMBAI

Virat Kohli (73, 54b, 8x4, 2x6) returned to form to give Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) an eight-wicket victory over Gujarat Titans (GT) in its last group stage IPL match here on Thursday.

The win kept RCB (16 points) in the hunt for a playoffs spot. If Delhi Capitals (14 points) loses to Mumbai Indians on Sunday, RCB will make the cut.

Kohli, who has struggled for form this season, anchored the successful chase of 169. He was lucky early in his essay, when Rashid Khan put down a chance at deep square-leg. Rashid rushed in too early and could not get under the high ball. Kohli cashed in to record his highest score of the edition.

Faf du Plessis (44, 38b, 5x4) and Kohli set RCB on the path to victory with a 115-run opening stand. Kohli reached his fifty with a six, leading the big crowd at the Wankhede Stadium to chant his name.

Rashid, who engaged in a verbal banter with Kohli when he came on to bowl, eventually got his man stumped. At this stage, RCB needed a comfortable 23 runs off 20 balls.

Maxwell (40 n.o., 18b, 4x5, 2x6), who had joined Kohli earlier, took the team home with eight balls to spare.

Guiding force: Kohli masterminded RCB's chase with his highest score of the season. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

After electing to bat, Titans posted a respectable total. Skipper Hardik Pandya made an unbeaten 47-ball 62, while David Miller (34, 25b, 3x6) and Wriddhiman Saha (31, 22b, 4x4, 1x6) made handy contributions.

Saha started the innings in great style, smacking Siddarth Kaul for a straight six in the opening over. In a surprise move, Kaul was brought in to replace Mohammed Siraj in the eleven. The move did not yield the desired result, as Kaul finished with figures of none for 43.

Fellow pacer Josh Hazlewood removed Shubman Gill in the third over, courtesy a terrific one-handed catch by Maxwell at slip.

Saha looked set to make his third fifty in four outings, until a direct-hit from du Plessis caught him short.

Matthew Wade (16, 13b, 2x4, 1x6) was taken out leg-before by Maxwell. Wade was convinced that he got an edge, but the DRS showed no wood.

Much like Saha, Miller was dismissed when he had settled down. Wanindu Hasaranga's sharp return catch cut short the dangerous Miller's stay. Pandya received a life on 14, when Suyash Prabhudessai dropped a regulation catch on long-on. Pandya went on to remain unbeaten, even if he struggled to hit the big shots in the death overs.

A six-ball 19 from Rashid Khan gave Titans a much-needed boost. Rashid, with two sixes to his name, helped the team add 34 in the last two overs, but that didn't prove enough once Kohli got going.

SCOREBOARD

GUJARAT TITANS

Wriddhiman Saha run out 31 *(22b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Shubman Gill c Maxwell b Hazlewood 1 *(4b)*, Matthew Wade lbw b Maxwell 16 *(13b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Hardik Pandya (not out) 62 *(47b, 4x4, 3x6)*, David Miller c & b Hasaranga 34 *(25b, 3x6)*, Rahul Tewatia c Karthik b Hazlewood 2 *(3b)*, Rashid Khan (not out) 19 *(6b, 1x4, 2x6)*; Extras (lb-1, w-2): 3; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 168.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-21 (Gill, 2.3 overs), 2-38 (Wade, 5.2), 3-62 (Saha, 8.3), 4-123 (Miller, 16.2), 5-132 (Tewatia, 17.3)

RCB BOWLING

Kaul 4-0-43-0, Shahbaz 2-0-15-0, Hazlewood 4-0-39-2, Maxwell 4-1-28-1, Lomror 1-0-11-0, Hasaranga 4-0-25-1, Harshal 1-0-6-0.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS

Virat Kohli st Wade b Rashid 73 *(54b, 8x4, 2x6)*, Faf du Plessis c Hardik b Rashid 44 *(38b, 5x4)*, Glenn Maxwell (not out) 40 *(18b, 5x4, 2x6)*, Dinesh Karthik (not out) 2 *(2b)*; Extras (b-4, w-7): 11; Total (for two wkts. in 18.4 overs): 170.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-115 (du Plessis, 14.3), 2-146 (Kohli, 16.4).

TITANS BOWLING

Shami 2-0-23-0, Hardik 3-0-35-0, Rashid 4-0-32-2, Dayal 4-0-35-0, Sai Kishore 4-0-20-0, Ferguson 1.4-0-21-0.

Toss: Gujarat Titans.

RCB won by eight wickets with eight balls to spare.

Innings scan

GT		RCB
46	Dots	33
11	Fours	18
10	Sixes	4
38/2	PP	55/0
8.40	RR	9.10

POINTS TABLE

After the RCB-GT match on May 19

Teams	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
Gujarat Titans (Q)	14	10	4	20	0.316
Lucknow Super Giants (Q)	14	9	5	18	0.251
Rajasthan Royals	13	8	5	16	0.304
Royal Challengers Bangalore	14	8	6	16	-0.253
Delhi Capitals	13	7	6	14	0.255
Kolkata Knight Riders (E)	14	6	8	12	0.146
Punjab Kings (E)	13	6	7	12	-0.043
Sunrisers Hyderabad (E)	13	6	7	12	-0.230
Chennai Super Kings (E)	13	4	9	8	-0.206
Mumbai Indians (E)	13	3	10	6	-0.577

Q: Qualified; E: Eliminated

Sindhu is lone Indian standing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BANGKOK

Two-time Olympic medallist P.V. Sindhu remains the lone surviving Indian in the Thailand Open after she sailed into the women's singles quarterfinals here on Thursday.

K. Srikanth handed his Irish rival Nhat Nguyen a walkover in the second round.

The results: Men: K. Srikanth w/o to Nhat Nguyen.
Women: P.V. Sindhu bt Sim Yu-jin 21-16, 21-13; Malvika Bansod lost to Line Christopherson 21-16, 14-21, 14-21; **Doubles:** Ashwini Bhat & Shikha Gautam lost to Mayu Matsumoto & Wakana Nagahara 19-21, 6-21.
Mixed doubles: Ishaan Bhatnagar & Tanisha Crasto lost to Goh Soon Huat & Lai Shevon Jemie 19-21, 20-22.

Anand back with a bang

Anand. • FILE PHOTO: VELANKANNI RAJ

SPORTS BUREAU

Wildcard Viswanathan Anand made a spectacular return to top-flight competition by posting resounding victories over Radoslaw Wojtaszek (Poland), Wesley So (USA) and Anton Korobov (Uzbekistan) and taking the lead with six points after three rounds of the Grand Chess Tour (GCT) Superbet rapid chess tournament in Warsaw on Thursday.

Anand began with a 36-move victory over local hope and his former 'second' Wojtaszek, then stunned Wesley So in 30 moves before punishing an erratic Korobov in just 28 moves to maintain a perfect score.

The placings (after three rounds): 1. Viswanathan Anand (6 points), 2-4. Fabiano Caruana (USA), Levon Aronian (USA), Jan-Krzystof Duda (Pol) (4 each), 5-7. Richard Rapport (Hun), Wesley So (USA), Anton Korobov (Uzb) (3 each); 8. Radosław Wojtaszek (Pol, 2), 9. Kirill Shevchenko (Uzb, 1); 10. David Gavrilescu (Rou, 0).

Royals look to seal their playoffs spot with a win

Super Kings could give untested players a chance

ASHWIN ACHAL
MUMBAI

Rajasthan Royals (RR) will look to finish its group stage campaign with a victory over struggling Chennai Superkings (CSK) at Brabourne Stadium here on Friday. A win will assure RR, currently level with Royal Challengers Bangalore on 16 points, of a playoffs spot.

A 24-run win over Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) on Sunday was crucial to RR staying ahead of the curve. The team rode on handy knocks from Yashasvi Jaiswal, skipper Sanju Samson and Devdutt Padikkal, before left-arm pacer Trent Boult (2/18) did the job with the ball.

Jos Buttler has been dismissed for single-digit scores in the last two outings, but the English batter remains the highest run-scorer of the tournament. West Indian batter Shimron Hetmyer, who travelled to West Indies earlier this month for the birth of his child, is back with the team.

Leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal (24 wickets) is well supported by Prasidh Krishna, Boult and R. Ashwin. CSK, on the other hand, has already been eliminated. The side could give untested players a chance to shine.

This approach worked in favour of speedster Matheesha Pathirana who impressed in his IPL debut a few days ago. The Sri Lankan slinger, whose action resembles Lasith Malinga's, even earned the praise of captain M.S. Dhoni.

CSK may have lost the match, but they did unearth a potential star. The unit will hope for more encouraging sidenotes on Friday.

TODAY'S MATCH

RR vs. CSK

BRABOURNE, 7.30 P.M.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 25

RR 10 | CSK 15

Previous meeting
RR won by seven wickets, 2021

STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD)

Djokovic could run into Nadal in last eight

In-form teenager Alcaraz and Zverev also drawn in the same half of the draw

FRENCH OPEN

REUTERS
PARIS

Defending champion Novak Djokovic and 13-time winner Rafael Nadal are on a quarterfinal collision course at the French Open following the draw on Thursday.

World No.1 Djokovic, back on the Grand Slam scene after being deported from Melbourne ahead of the Australian Open following his decision not to have a COVID-19 vaccination, will start his campaign against Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka.

He was drawn in the toughest half of the draw with Nadal as well as in-form Spanish teenager Carlos Alcaraz and World No. 3 Alexander Zverev, who could clash in the last eight.

"It's amazing to see all the fans who have already come here for the qualifications," said Djokovic, who attended the draw ceremony at Roland Garros.

Exciting: Djokovic and Nadal, the last two winners at Roland Garros, have been slotted in the same half. • REUTERS

Tricky opener

Last year's runner-up Stefanos Tsitsipas faces a tricky first-round match against Italian Lorenzo Musetti, who last year took Djokovic to five sets in the fourth round.

World No. 2 Daniil Medvedev could take on compatriot Andrey Rublev in the quarterfinals as Russian players have been allowed to compete despite their country's invasion of Ukraine.

In the women's draw, hot favourite Iga Swiatek, looking to secure her second French Open title in three years, could face former champion Jelena Ostapenko in the last 16.

Ostapenko was the last player to beat the Polish World No.1 before she started her 28-match unbeaten streak, winning five titles before the start of the French Open on Sunday.

Defending champion Barbora Krejcikova is on a last-16 collision course with former World No.1 Victoria Azarenka in the lower part of the draw.

Naomi Osaka, who withdrew from the tournament last year after skipping her media duties and citing mental health issues, has been drawn to face American Amanda Anisimova, the 27th seed.

IN BRIEF

Stubblety-Cook sets 200m breaststroke WR

ADELAIDE

Olympic 200m breaststroke champion Zac Stubblety-Cook smashed the World record on Thursday at the Australian championships, touching in 2mins 05.95secs. The 23-year-old was under world record pace for the entire race to shatter the 2:06.12 mark set by Russia's Anton Chupkov at the 2019 World championships. AFP

US Soccer formalises men-women pay parity

WASHINGTON

The U.S. Soccer Federation on Wednesday reached milestone agreements to pay its men's and women's teams equally, making the American national governing body the first in the sport to promise pay parity. AP

Uttar Pradesh wins big

KOVILPATTI

Uttar Pradesh thrashed Himachal Pradesh 13-0 in a Pool-A match of the 12th Hockey India junior men's National championships here on Thursday.

The results: Pool-A: UP 13 (Sharda Nand Tiwari 3, Arun Sahani 5, Amir Ali 2, Mohammad Haris, Mohit Kushwaha, Siddhant Singh) bt HP 0; **B:** Chandigarh 8 (Surinder Singh 4, Raman, Ajaypal Singh, Taranjot Singh, Rohit) bt MP 2 (Neeraj Singh, Satyam Barde); **C:** Odisha 5 (Deepak Minaz 2, Laban Lugan 2, Roshan Kujur) bt Rajasthan 0; **E:** Bihar 3 (Bhavik, Rohit Lama, Birsa Pandu) bt J&K 1 (Saksham Sharma).

Three women in FIFA WC referee list

GENEVA

Female referees will make World Cup history this year by working games at a major men's tournament for the first time in Qatar. Three female referees and three female assistant referees were announced by FIFA among 129 officials selected for World Cup duty..

Sift and Surya win 50m rifle prone silver

Parinaaz, Darshna and Areeba clinch women's skeet team bronze; India tops table with 33 medals

JUNIOR WC

SPORTS BUREAU

After the gold rush that saw the team grab 13 of the 31 medals at stake, India wound up the show with a silver and bronze medal in the Junior World Cup shooting in Suhl, Germany.

Sift Kaur Samra and Surya Pratap Singh won the 50-metre rifle prone mixed team silver, losing to the Polish team of Maja Magdalena Gawenda and Wiktor Sajdak 15-17.

The Indian pair had dominated the first qualification stage, but lost the edge in the next two matches and suffered a heart-breaking loss in the gold contest.

In the women's skeet team event, Parinaaz Dhaliwal, Darshna Rathore and Areeba Khan bagged the bronze, outplaying host Germany 6-0. The Indians had shot 194 in qualification and missed the chance to fight for the gold by one point to the eventual champion Britain.

Overall, it was an impressive display by India as it bagged 13 gold, 15 silver and five bronze for a total of 33.

Italy was second with four gold, two silver and five bronze. Poland (4), US (3), Germany (2), France (2), Australia, Britain and Bulgaria were the other teams that managed to win gold medals among the 21 countries that figured in the medals table.

Memorable day: The India skeet team that claimed the bronze in Germany. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results:

Women's skeet team: 1. Britain 7 (195); 2. Slovakia 1 (201); 3. India (Parinaaz Dhaliwal, Darshna Rathore, Areeba Khan) 6 (194); 4. Germany (Emilie Bundan, Annebella Hettmer, Hannah Middel) 0 (193).

50m rifle prone mixed team: 1. Poland-2 (Maja Magdalena Gawenda, Wiktor Sajdak) 17 (414.1) 616.6; 2. India-2 (Sift Kaur Samra, Surya Pratap Singh) 15 (409.8) 622.8; 3. Poland-1 (Julia Ewa Piotrowska, Michal Chojnowki) 16 (405.9) 613.6; 4. Norway (Pernille Nor-Woll, Isak Gurrik) 12 (204.7); 616.4 5. India-1 (Surabhi Bharadwaj, Adarsh Tiwari) 405.6.

Royal team, loyal fans

Star value: Athlete Dutee Chand participated in a Royal Challengers Bangalore promotional event in Bengaluru on Thursday. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

No major surprises in Indian team

FIH PRO LEAGUE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Amit Rohidas will continue to lead the Indian men's hockey team in the crucial last leg of the 2021-22 FIH Pro League in Belgium and Netherlands next month.

There are no big surprises as the management continues to test various combination from the core group in the Pro League ties ahead of a busy calendar year.

The team:

Goalkeepers: Suraj Karkera, P.R. Sreejesh; **Defenders:** Surender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh (vice-capt.), Varun Kumar, Amit Rohidas (capt.), Jugraj Singh, Jarmanpreet Singh.

Midfielders: Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, Shamsher Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Akashdeep Singh, Nilakanta Sharma; **Forwards:** Gurjant Singh, Mandeep Singh, Shilanand Lakra, Sukhjeet Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Abhishek.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Balaganesh to meet Diganth in final

Balaganesh Patel will take on M. Diganth in the boys' final of the SAT Sports-AITA CS7 U-14 tennis tournament on Thursday.

The results (semifinals): **Boys:** M. Diganth bt M. Shreyanth 7-5, 6-3; Balaganesh Patel bt Anurag Shourya Kallambella 6-3, 1-6, [12-10]. **Girls:** Archisha Ghosh bt Disha Kumar 6-3, 7-6 (2); Naba Nishan bt Thanu Vishwas 6-2, 6-2.

Monish and Swara sprint to glory

Monish Chandrashekar and Swara Santosh Shinde won the boys' and girls' 100m sprints respectively at the State Mini Olympic Games here on Thursday.

Select results (winners all): **Athletics: Boys: 100m:** Monish Chandrashekar (11.4s); **High jump:** Anshul Sai (1.20m); **Shot put:** G. Anurag (17.26m); **Girls: 100m:** Swara Santosh Shinde (12.9s); **High jump:** P. Harshitha (1.45m); **Shot put:** Advika Aditya (10.22m).

Swimming: Boys: 800m freestyle: S. Dharshan (9:27.39s). **Girls: 200m freestyle:** M.P. Aarna (2:19.12); **800m freestyle:** Meenakshi Menon (9:55.90).

Weightlifting: Boys: 73kg: Nagesh Maruti Angolkar (snatch 34, clean & jerk 45, total 79); **73kg+:** Ishan Karayappa Seraje (50, 64, 114).

'Shaili will be fighting for a CWG medal'

Not pushing her to qualify for senior Worlds, says coach Bobby George

ATHLETICS

STAN RAYAN

KOCHI

She was down with a back injury late last year and with COVID-19 in January, but young long jumper Shaili Singh is now back and perhaps better than ever before.

"Her speed and strength have improved. It's a big factor when your speed improves, your body is free, you benefit a lot," said Robert Bobby George, Shaili's coach, in a chat with *The Hindu* on Thursday.

"In fact, in the 30m sprint, she has already achieved the target I had set for her. Now, we have to convert that speed into her jumps. We are working on her rhythm right now."

Nine months after she won the under-20 World championships silver (with 6.59m), Shaili will be back on a competition runway at the Indian Grand Prix-4 in Bhubaneswar on May 24.

Long jumper Shaili Singh. • FILE PHOTO

But don't expect any major fireworks in the 18-year-old's season opener.

"She started jumping very late, only in April, so she should be in the 6.40m to 6.50 range," said Bobby who is moulding the country's most exciting talent in Bengaluru's Anju Bobby Centre of Excellence.

"The peak will come in June-July."

Hectic times

Though the Asian Games in China have been pushed to next year, June, July and August will be hectic ones with domestic competitions followed by Junior Worlds, senior Worlds and Commonwealth Games. But Shaili will be focusing on the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

"The Commonwealth and Junior Worlds are on the same dates (August first week) so right now, Commonwealth is our first priority," said Bobby who coached his wife Anju to the long jump bronze at the 2003 Paris Worlds.

The qualification standard for the senior Worlds is 6.82m, a centimetre short of Anju's national record, but Bobby made it clear that he will not be pushing Shaili to the target.

"Not this year, if she goes to the Worlds by virtue of her world ranking it's fine. Otherwise, we can't say anything, there is no magic.

"6.75 is my target this year, if you overstretch she can reach 6.80 but even then, those 2cms could be beyond our reach," he said.

"We will be fighting for a Commonwealth medal. Many of the world's best, including Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Nigerian Ese Brume (2021 world leader, 7.17m) will be there."

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